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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI.—NO. 20. WEEKLY EDITION. MARCH 28, 1874.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 19, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. Rutan introduced a bill appointing a committee to report to the Legislature a uniform system of school books.

Mr. McKinley offered a resolution fixing the date of final adjournment at April 1st.

C. B. Hurst, of Beaver county, was confirmed Notary Public.

HOUSE.

The resolution requesting the President to grant Fitz John Porter a new trial was supported by Messrs. Brockway, Christy and Allen, and passed, 61 to 11.

The bill to prevent the destruction of forests and farm fences by fires from locomotives passed.

The bill authorizing cities to purchase gas and water companies, passed.

Mr. Stranahan presented the remonstrance of 500 citizens of Sharon against the repeal of Local Option.

The House dispensed with the afternoon session to allow the Cassville Committee to hear the argument. Ex-Speaker Anderson said the committee to order at three o'clock, the argument lasting three hours. The committee will report in a few days.

Representative Laidley, of Greene, is reported to be very ill at his home in Waynesburg.

Mr. Newmyer desires it to be understood that he will not be a candidate for Speaker, should Mr. McCormick be nominated District Attorney.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 20, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate was in session but a short time, and adjourned until Tuesday.

HOUSE.

The House spent the entire morning in debating the propriety of a final adjournment on the 23d of April, and failed to agree on any time. This indicates that the session will last well on to the middle of May.

At the afternoon session a large number of petitions were presented, principally for and against Local Option—one by Mr. Young, from George Morrison and one hundred citizens of Moon township against repeal.

Bills were read as follows:

Mr. Ramey, Relative to the support of the sick and poor.

Mr. Toner, of Westmoreland, An act to repeal the Local Option law for that county.

Mr. Orvis, Relative to the duties of Aldermen and Mayors.

Mr. Cross, Making an appropriation for pensioners.

Mr. Christy, To validate the charters of certain insurance companies.

Mr. Myln, An appropriation to the State hospital at Warren.

Mr. Lattie, Extending mechanics liens.

Mr. McKee. A new liquor law.

Mr. Gerwig presented the report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the removal of the Western Penitentiary, and moved a committee of three to carry out the views of the commissioners.

The Chair appointed Mr. Gerwig, of Allegheny, Mr. Thompson, of Fayette, and Mr. Toner, of Westmoreland.

On the question the yeas were negatived: For a Geological survey; for appropriation to the Allegheny Prison Society; to prevent banks from paying interest on deposits.

Speaker McCormick returned from Washington this morning. He went over with the determination to decline the District Attorneyship, and did so peremptorily.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 23, 1874.

HOUSE.

Mr. Young presented the petition of G. H. Morrison, S. C. Jennings and one hundred citizens of Moon township against the repeal of Local Option law, and the danger of increasing the number of groggeries.

Mr. Laidley, of Greene, who lies dangerously ill at home.

Bills were read in place as follows:

Mr. Smith, of Philadelphia, Relative to the cause of divorce.

Mr. Allen, of Warren, Relating to counties and townships, and regulating their officers.

Mr. Jones, of Potter, Relative to the return of school tax on unseated lands.

Mr. Waddell, A division of election districts.

Mr. Thompson, of Fayette, Repealing the Luzerne Road law so far as it refers to Salt Lick township.

Mr. Campbell, Relative to liens of mechanics, laborers, &c., on buildings.

The bill transferring the powers of municipal indebtedness being on its second reading, Mr. Newmyer made an effort to change the rate of interest from six to eight per cent., but failed.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 18, 1874.

The Senate took up and passed through second reading the several bills read a first time, yesterday, and read quite a number of bills a first time. It also passed finally a bill to define and punish the offense of a corrupt solicitation of votes from members of the Legislature and municipal bodies. The vote by which Mr. Fitch's bill to authorize persons solemnizing marriages to administer oaths to persons suspected of being minors, was postponed indefinitely, last week, was reconsidered and the bill laid over for the present. Quite a number of bills came out of committee, but none was read in place, which is rather remarkable. The Senate then, having no other business ready, adjourned.

In the House, two sessions were held, morning and afternoon, and both were devoted to the reading of bills a first time. The calendar was a long one, covering over three pages, and embraced nearly a hundred bills. At five o'clock p. m., when the House adjourned all of these but three or four had been disposed of, in one way or another, most of them being favorably acted on. It would be useless to give the long list, as the repetition of titles breeds confusion, and I shall henceforth give the titles only of such bills as pass finally, in each House.

Among the defeated bills, on first reading, were, the bill to create police districts in cities of over 50,000 inhabitants, and the bill to provide for taking a State census in 1875. Both of these were voted down with a will; and the bill for a geological survey narrowly escaped defeat. The Senate has a bill on the same subject, which is regarded as preferable to the House bill, in some respects, and it is not improbable that the House bill may be defeated on second reading.

The State Census bill provided for a census in 1875 under the Secretary of Internal Affairs; but it contemplated the taking of the census on one day in April, of that year, and an army of officials to take it would be required, the House grew alarmed at the probable cost, and voted the bill down.

The bill to erect police courts in cities having over fifty thousand population was published in the COMMERCIAL the other day, and its provisions are therefore familiar to your readers. The Constitution permits the erection of such courts, but does not make their erection imperative or mandatory. It is one of the bills that may be passed, and one that must be done. It becomes, therefore, a question of expediency as to whether it ought to be done now or not. Judging from the experience on the subject in other cities, the advantages of the system are not very apparent. At any rate, there is no special hurry for applying it to the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, the only cities in the State affected by it. The time may come when it will be politic and prudent to adopt the system in our cities; but I should prefer, for one, to see the present Judges, Independent courts, the justices to be elected by the people, to the plan proposed in the defeated bill of having the Courts of Common Pleas to frame the districts and appoint the Judges from among the magistrates or the people at large. The Constitution contemplates that the people shall elect their own Judges in all cases, and this principle is as applicable to the Judges of police courts as of any other court.

The bill to repeal the Local Option law came up in the House, this afternoon, on first reading, and was recommitted to the Committee on Vice and Immorality, by a very decided vote. Mr. Orvis tried hard to get a vote on the bill, direct, or to send it to some other committee; and in this he was but probably the last of the bill, at this session. There was not a good prospect ahead, of this character, and the members generally were only too glad of a chance to get rid of it without coming to a direct vote upon its merits.

Dr. Kressler, of Luzerne, made a long and well-prepared speech, in the House, this morning, in favor of his bill to abolish and regulate the social evil. He presented his side of the case strongly, and arrayed a great many strong authorities in his favor; but, after all, plausible as his arguments were, standing out by themselves, without examination or answer, they were not conclusive. The moral sense of every thinking man revolts at the idea of making a gross sin easy and physically safe, and that in plain English, is what his bill means. It is to prevent the physical consequences of indiscriminate sexual intercourse, and to legalize what every right-minded man regards as a crime, a shame, and a reproach. I cannot convince myself that the House can be brought to vote favorably on the measure. This is not a sporting community like that of France or Germany; and even if the bill in itself were right, which it is not, there would be no possibility of enforcing it here as in Europe.

The bill to pay the newspapers for advertising the Constitution is now in the hands of a Conference Committee. On the part of the Senate it consists of Messrs. Rutan, Graham and Chalfant; and on the part of the House of Messrs. Young, Cooper and Talley. What they will come up with remains to be seen. It is almost impossible to frame a basis of settlement that will not pay some too much and others too little.

The Judicial Appointment bill was agreed upon to-day in the Conference Committee. The House amendments have been agreed upon, mainly, including the new districts created by it, and the re-numbering of the districts, restoring the old numbers, wherever practicable. The Lebanon county Judge is to reside in Lebanon county, the House Committee agreeing to give up the amendment which left him at liberty to reside elsewhere. The bill will undoubtedly pass as reported by committee, and so *that* question may be considered as disposed of.

The next agony will be over the appointment of the new Judges. That will be quite a number to appoint, and the Governor will have to exercise a very large discretion in making his selections. It is generally understood that Mr. Waddell, of Chester, will be appointed for the Lebanon district, and Mr. Orvis, now of the House, to the Centre district. There is a strong desire to have Hon. A. W. Taylor, of Indiana, take the Indiana appointment, but as that would involve his resignation of his seat in Congress, it is an open question whether he will consent. The constitutional provision that no member of the Legislature shall be appointed to any office created during the term for which he was elected, is held not to apply to Mr. Orvis, inasmuch as he was elected under the old Constitution, and the new one is applicable only to those elected under it.

Gen. Moorhead, President Woods and Mr. Waring have been here, from your city, today, urging upon the Finance Committee of the Senate the policy of engrafting upon the Common School system of the State the plan of technical education. Their proposition is to take $5,000 of the State million, now devoted to common schools, and give $5,000 each to the Western University, the Agricultural College and the Pennsylvania University, for endowing a chair of professorship of technical education. This is in lieu of the effort to establish a Mechanics' High School. The committee heard the gentlemen, very attentively, and the Superintendent of Common Schools assented to the proposed arrangement; but I have not learned what impression was made by the advocacy of the plan. It has not yet been rendered to the shape of a written proposition; and until it is, the practicability of the details cannot be judged of.

As the first of April approaches, there is a strong talk of having a recess during that week. The first of April is setting day throughout this entire central region, and the laws regulating that season are as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. I do not, therefore, for an adjournment from the 27th of March to the 6th of April—"thar or thar-about."

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 19, 1874.

An attempt was made in both Houses, today, to carry the usual adjournment for a week, at April 1st, but it failed in both. In the House, the resolution was offered just before the hour of adjournment, by Mr. McKee, of Dauphin, and was immediately cut off by the orders of the day. It proposed an adjournment from Friday, March 27, to Tuesday, April 7. The sentiment in the House seemed to favor it; but a yea and nay vote might have proved fatal to it. On a *viva voce* motion to adjourn at an early hour, on Wednesday the vote was 49 to 34; but on a call for the yeas and nays the 49 dwindled to 27. In the Senate, Mr. Cooper offered the resolution to adjourn from March 27 to April 14. Mr. Wallace moved to strike out the 14th and insert 7th; carried, 17 to 13; and the resolution, as amended, was then voted down, yeas 16, nays 16. I still think that, as next week draws to a close, some such resolution will be adopted.

Mr. McKinley offered a joint resolution for final adjournment on April 15th. It was referred to the Finance Committee. If the committee would report it promptly, fix the day for, say, April 22d, it would, I think, be adopted, and both Houses would work up to it promptly. If this is not done, the session will drawl along aimlessly, and be prolonged into May. I have, however, a conviction that, now the robins have come and the grass is springing, and the spring freshets and floods are floating around, the members will soon begin to have the home fever; and when that sets in, as early adjournment will become a necessity. I have never known the Legislature to stay here willingly after the spring flowers came.

The Senate took up its list of bills on third reading, and passed finally the following, originating in the House of Representatives. These have all yet to be acted on by the House:

No. 113, An act to prohibit foreign corporations from doing business in Pennsylvania without having known places of business and authorized agents.

No. 75, An act in relation to suits for wages, providing stay of proceedings on judgments obtained for $100 and under.

No. 117, An act to provide for the imprisonment of persons where sentences shall be commuted to imprisonment for the term.

No. 107, An act relating to the validity of the charters of certain incorporations.

No. 65, Joint resolution to correct the coat of arms of the Commonwealth, so to have the same recorded in the State archives.

No. 116, An act to provide for the payment of canvassers appointed by the Commissioners of Election in the city of Philadelphia.

No. 93, An act to authorize the boards of revision in the cities of this Commonwealth to appoint additional assistants.

No. 84, An act for the relief of Rebecca Stock, a resident of Middle Creek township, Snyder county, a widow of Conrad A. Stock, a soldier of the war of 1812.

The Apportionment bill came up in regular order and was amended in one or two unimportant particulars. Mr. Alexander then offered an amendment, changing the apportionment in Philadelphia, radically. It makes each of the twenty-nine wards of Philadelphia a separate district. Two of them elect three members each, and five of them two each; the other twenty-two elect one each. This plan gives the Democrats seven members, certain, out of the thirty-eight, with a chance for three more in close districts. This plan will, it is thought, avoid the local bickerings which spring up between wards when coupled together in districts, a certain fruitful source of Democratic success than any plan they would give us if *they* had the power. The amendment was adopted; but I hear the city members in the House are not favorable to it. The bill was postponed until Thursday of next week, and was made the special order for an afternoon session on that day.

The Geological Survey bill progressed up to the last section, on the second reading, and was then postponed for the present. It provides for a geological survey board of ten to take an appraisal of the work, and appropriates $35,000 a year for three years is appropriated to pay the cost. The total expenses, it is thought, will reach $500,000, including the cost of publication. Mr. White opposed the bill warmly, and Mr. Wallace, Mr. McClure, Mr. Maclay and other gentlemen sustained it as arduously. The expense was the main objection urged by those opposed it. Every one of them conceded the great service it would be to the State. Mr. Wallace in reply to Mr. White, took the strong ground that special legislation had hitherto been the means of developing the State, and that being now cut off, we must direct outside attention to our resources by making known the rich capacities of the State through such surveys as this. We must have something tangible to show to capitalists to induce them to come in and help us, and a geological survey is the only method left us of pointing out, satisfactorily and clearly, the mineral wealth of the State.

The bill from the House to fix the salary of the Lieutenant Governor passed second reading. As it passed the House, the bill put the salary at $5,000. The Senate committee put it at $2,000. Mr. Davis to-day moved to amend so as to make it $5,000. Mr. Rutan moved to amend the amendment by striking out $5,000 and inserting $3,000. Lost—12 to 17; and the question recurring on Mr. Davis' motion, it was lost—9 to 21. Mr. McClure then moved to strike out the $2,000 put in by the Senate Committee, and put in the sum originally fixed in the House, $5,000. Agreed to—yeas 15, nays 12, and the bill then went over until to-morrow.

In the House, the calendar of bills on second reading was taken up, and some eight or ten were passed up to third reading; but most of them provoked a fight, and hence but little progress was made. The joint resolution to submit a new trial for Fitz John Porter was opposed strenuously by Dr. Bailey and others, but passed second reading, yeas 75, nays 11. The vote on it will hereafter be given as the vote if it had been reversed. An act to punish railroad companies for destroying forests, fences and property through carelessly communicated by sparks from locomotives, was also warmly resisted, but went through, up to third reading. The bill appropriating $1,200 for compiling the nearly worthless trash called "Transactions of the State Agricultural Society," gave rise to a warm debate; but on the ridiculous plea that the farmers want it, the House voted to give it to them. The farmers of Allegheny county is anxious to get this book, I shall be amazed to learn the fact. It is chiefly a compilation of the premium lists of the various county societies, interlarded with dull and sleepy essays written by lawyers and other urban scribes who fancy they know all about agriculture.

Several of the Eastern railroad companies have refused to pay the State taxes levied upon them under existing Tax laws, on the ground that the laws imposing them are in violation of the 4th section of the ninth article of the Constitution. The Reading Railroad heads the list of resisting companies, and the plan of resistance is to appeal to the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin county from the accounts settled against the roads by the Auditor General. This ties up the claims of the State in a litigation that must last for years before it can be determined by the court of last resort. The taxes resisted are the taxes on loans, tonnage and coal. The revenues derived from these sources in 1873 were as follows:

Tax on loans	$988,339 93
Tax on tonnage	585,370 90
Tax on coal	536,353 91
	$1,410,057 74

This litigation, therefore, ties up a million and a half of the ordinary revenue of the State, and renders that sum completely unavailable for years. The State has the alternative to fight it out, with the risk of the committee's decision against it, or to repeal so much of all that relates to these disputed taxes, and to enact others imposing taxes that will yield as much without being as liable to legal opposition. The probability is that, before the Senate does this effectually, and if the corporations prefer to arrange its details differently, they should lose no time in arranging them. The State will get the revenue it needs in some way, they may rest assured. The total amount of State revenue, last year, was $7,160,000, in round numbers. It is proposed this year to do with a million less, and to give the corporations the benefit of the reduction; but if they are going to establish a state of war, they cannot expect to have this benefit allowed them. It is desirable, therefore, that both parties to the bargain should come to an early understanding of the true state of the case and so make the financial condition of the State easy and secure.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 21, 1874.

A second attempt was made yesterday, in the Senate, to adjourn over two weeks in the beginning of April, but it failed like the first. Mr. McClure offered a resolution to adjourn from March 27th to April 13th. Mr. Davis moved to strike out 13th and insert 6th; carried. Mr. White then moved to strike out 6th and insert 7th. Lost, 11 to 14; and the original resolution, as amended, to adjourn from March 27th to April 6th, was lost, yeas 5, nays 17. A similar resolution in the House, to adjourn from March 27th to April 7th, was carried there, yeas 62, nays 19; but it did not reach the Senate in time, or it would have been voted down.

When the subject was up in the House, Mr. Weib moved to amend by inserting a resolution to adjourn finally on April 23d, which was lost, yeas 24, nays 59. There seems to be on the part of a large party in both Houses, a disposition to prolong the session to 150 days, as to ensure the receipt of the extra $500 provided for in the Salary bill for such commingences; but I have no doubt that many gentlemen voted for the April recess simply from a desire to get home at a time which, above all others in the year, requires their attention to their private affairs. There is no reason to believe that the Legislature cannot get through its work by April 23d, if it wants to do so. Nothing but the will is wanting.

The experience of the past week has shown that all the important bills likely to engage the attention of the Legislature at this session are now in. The bills read in place this week are few in number and of comparatively small importance. Many of these are special or local bills, and the longer the session is protracted, the greater will be the number of this particular class of bills. If members do not wish to be defeated with them, the sure way of cutting them off is to adjourn early.

It is noticeable, just here, that the passage of the act requiring the publication of notices of application for special legislation has introduced the belief, in some quarters, that local legislation is still to be had as easily as ever, the publication of notices being all that is additionally required. The publication of notices does not open the door to such legislation; but is a preliminary required by the Constitution in all cases where local legislation is not constitutionally prohibited. Bills have been introduced here this week, to charter a railroad company in Allegheny county, to amend the charter of Pittsburgh in some particular about streets, and for various local purposes throughout the State. Where the bills are plainly, upon their face, unconstitutional, the Speaker refuses to receive them; but several of a similar (though not so flagrant) nature have been sent through the committees of the House, and are now on the calendar, and one (to allow the County Commissioners of Montgomery to borrow money) has actually passed the House and been sent to the Senate. Among the bills now pending in the House, of this character, are one for the inspection of fish; one relative to a burial ground in Mercer county; and one to exempt Union county from the Game law. The difficulty is, where to draw the line between what is permitted and what is prohibited. The latter is to be construed by the opinions differ as to what is or is not prohibited.

The House devoted its morning session to bills on second reading, and succeeded only a little way in the calendar. Its afternoon session was given up to reporting bills, and reading bills in place. At the morning session, a supplement to the act for exempting manufactures from taxation except for State purposes, was postponed indefinitely. It provided that the original act should be so construed as to apply only to manufactures of iron and steel exclusively. The bill to punish the fraudulent issue or use of tax receipts came up near the close of the session, and Mr. Orvis moved an additional section for requiring the tax on tax receipts in evidence of their right to vote, to prove their genuineness, when challenged, before the Inspectors. This was in direct conflict with the general Election law, which provides that the tax receipt shall, in itself, be conclusive evidence of the right to vote, and the amendment was voted down on an adverse account, but on the ground that, as laboring men and mechanics generally vote in the closing hour between six and seven, the amendment would put in the power of any one, by challenging tax receipts, to disfranchise them altogether. The amendment was therefore voted down, 56 to 37, and those Democrats who are anxious to see adopted every possible measure of obstruction to free voting are naturally very indignant at its defeat.

I noticed, at the afternoon session, that the Appropriation Committee reported back quite a number of small Appropriation bills with a negative recommendation. Better late than never. They did not report them at the third session; and although one of them was a Pittsburgh bill, appropriating $1,500 to the Allegheny Observatory, I failed to see a disposition to see that committee begin to discriminate. They have heretofore reported every bill sent to them. Several of those already rejected during this session, and one or two of those rejected should have been reported favorably; but it is a good sign to see them halting in the work of indiscriminate appropriation.

A comparison of the total appropriations made last year and those already reported this year, shows that the $152,000 less than last year; but the total last year was swollen by $250,000 given to the two Medical Universities of Philadelphia for the establishment of hospitals. These were emergency appropriations, and should not be included in the count. If excluded, the total is already $52,000 more than last year, while the total revenue of the year is expected to be a million less. It is evidently time to stop.

Among the bills reported negatively (and a negative report is generally fatal) yesterday afternoon were the following:

An act granting an appropriation for the support of the Penn Widow Asylum at Philadelphia.

An act to provide for a geological, mineralogical and topographical survey of the State.

An act to aid and encourage prison reform, and making an appropriation thereto.

An act to prevent violation of the Usury laws of this Commonwealth, and to prevent banks under control of the State from charging more than the legal rate of interest, and to prevent banking institutions from paying interest on deposits made in the same.

An act making an appropriation for defraying current expenses of the Wayne Free Institute of Science at Philadelphia.

These cases will be considered dead except the Geological Survey bill, for which a fight will be made.

In the Senate, five bills passed finally, as follows:

Senate bill No. 124. A further supplement to the act of April, 1856, regulating the public printing and amending the same to increase the number of bills to be printed for the use of the two Houses.

No. 125, An act to regulate the manner of advertising for the State, and the issuing of warrants for the same.

House No. 15, A supplement to an act to establish the judicial courts of this Commonwealth, in conformity to the alterations and amendments in the Constitution, passed April 15, 1850, limiting the time for taking writs of error, appeal and *certiorari* to the Supreme Court.

House No. 42, An act providing for the election of Lieutenant Governor and fixing his salary.

No. 123, An act to prescribe the manner by which counties may divide boroughs into wards, &c.

Mr. Beckitel's bill to repeal the proviso to the 5th section of the act of 1872, for the better protection of the wages of mechanics, miners and laborers, came up on second reading, and led to considerable discussion. The original act, to which that of 1872 was a supplement, made debts due for wages a lien against real estate, without being entered up of record. The proviso to the fourth section of the act of 1872 required the liens to be entered up of record; and Mr. Bachtel's bill to simply repeal the proviso, failing in a hour of their transmission, known to another member of Congress, who was Simmons' most earnest advocate. Another illustration of the haste with which legislation is apt to be enacted, has been experienced by this eavesdropping around telegraph offices.

LABOR RIOT IN ILLINOIS.

Wives of Discharged Workmen Attempt to Drive Off New Hands with Old Eggs.

CHICAGO, March 20.—A number of coal miners at Minonk, Woodford county, Illinois, recently formed a miners' union, and yesterday the proprietors of the mines discharged old members of the union and filled their places with Norwegian miners. The discharged miners gathered at the shafts of the mines and by threats and persuasion to prevent the new hands from going to work, but were unsuccessful, and were finally sent off the premises. Last evening the wives of the discharged miners gathered in the vicinity of the shaft and assailed the new men and the President of the mining company with rotten eggs and other missiles. The trouble finally reached the dimensions of a riot, which the town authorities being unable to suppress entirely, Governor Beveridge was telegraphed to for military aid. The Governor dispatched Adjutant General Higgins, with a quantity of arms, to the scene of trouble, and telegraphed the Sheriff of Marshall county to raise a posse. To-day a number of rioters were arrested and, at last advices, were being tried before a justice of the peace. There appears to be great excitement in Minonk, but so far there is no account of serious damage to any one.

Trouble Among Michigan Lumbermen.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., March 23, 1874.

A dispatch was received in this city last night, calling the Grand Rapids Guards to build a riot at Gowan, in the lumber regions, caused by rival companies, formed for the purpose, driving logs out of Grand and Flat rivers and Muskegon lake. The latter stream has been organized for a number of years, and the other was formed this season, at the instance of the Wonderly Lumber Company, of this city. Rumor says both companies hired annually large men, whose reputations are notorious as fighting men, and have determined to win the right to drive the logs, by force of muscle, if in no other way. The Guards left for the scene of disturbance at 1:30 A. M.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20, 1874.

Direction of Votes on Amendments.

The vote in the Senate this afternoon to lay on the table the Stevenson amendment to the Army Appropriation bill is not considered as an indication of the sense of the Senate on the subject of certain classes of war claims. A number of Senators who are in favor of extending the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims with reference to these claims, voted to lay the amendment on the table because they did not regard the Army bill as the proper mode of disposing of this important question. The Stevenson amendment is the same as the bill introduced several weeks ago by Senator West. This bill is very comprehensive, providing for a hearing of a large number of war claims hitherto ralled out. Senator Sherman also introduced a bill at the beginning of the session empowering the Commissary and Quartermaster Generals to dispose of claims coming within the scope of their departments. As these bills are of great importance, the Senate Committee on Claims set apart to-morrow for a special meeting for their consideration; but, owing to an unexpected call of the Committee on Finance, of which Senator Scott (Chairman of the Committee on Claims) is a member, the proposed meeting has been postponed till to-morrow week.

Atlantic and Great Western Canal.

The adverse report of the Select Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard on the bill granting aid to the Atlantic and Great Western Canal is not looked upon as affording encouragement to the transportation movement and inland water routes.

Reports of Steamboat Inspectors.

A circular has just been issued by the Secretary of the Treasury relative to the rendition of reports under the Steamboat Inspection laws. Detailed statements of receipts under the Steamboat Inspection laws must be rendered quarterly. If there are no inspections the report of the fact must be certified. Those unpaid must be reported, and the amount collected at the earliest moment after the return of the original inspection certificate by the Inspectors, whether the steamer continues in service or not. All moneys for licenses and licenses and sales of locks must be deposited in the Treasury as steamboat fees. The forms prescribed by the revised catalogue of 1874 will be furnished upon requisition.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1874.

The Financial Bill.

The Senate Committee on Finance held a lengthy session yesterday on the Financial bill, which it is proposed to report to-morrow or next day. It is understood that the committee agreed to increase the volume of legal tenders from one hundred millions, so as to cover the amount of reserves already issued, which would bring the total up to three hundred and eighty-two millions. A decided opposition to a wholesale expansion of the currency was manifested. The majority did not coincide with the views entertained by some, that the increase in the volume of legal tenders called for a corresponding increase of paper currency. They took the ground that the nearer the currency is brought to a specie basis, the greater its purchasing power and the more it would increase the indebtedness and, by widening the interval between gold and currency, would depreciate the latter and lessen its purchasing power. It was argued that an increased volume would effect nothing as prices would assume the same relation as between currency and gold. The majority are not favor of the $400 rule, that no dollar specie will pay four dollars paper, asserting that in times of panic one dollar could redeem one dollar in paper and no more, leaving three dollars worthless.

The Policy Laid Down

was in favor of keeping the currency in close relation with gold; but rather than disturb the money market, it was decided to permit the reserves issued to remain. The bill provides for

Free Banking,

with provisions for specie or responsible redemption of circulation. The bill, judging from the views already expressed by many Senators, will be freely debated, especially by those knowing least concerning the laws which control monetary affairs, and hence favor free banking as a panacea for all ills, or such as are governed by the necessities of business, to be tested only by the profits growing out of banking operations. This party claim that there will be just as many ills as now, just as much money, and as they cease to do so they will fail.

Sumner's Bequest to Harvard.

The interest taken by Senator Sumner in the settlement of international disputes by arbitration instead of war, was consistently remembered in a bequest of one thousand dollars to Harvard College, in trust, for an annual prize for the best essay on universal peace.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23, 1874.

The Treasury Statement.

The report to-day of the new Finance bill in the Senate and the action of the House on the Four Hundred Million bill reported several weeks ago, created quite a stir, not only in Congress but in the country at large. During the entire day telegraphic dispatches were importunately sent to all the money centers, advising them of the various stages and prospects of the measure in both Houses. To increase the interest

In the Senate,

a number of petitions were introduced, the majority favoring expansion. Amongst the latter was one signed by H. B. Claflin & Co. and one hundred and forty other business men of New York city. Senator Sherman informed the Senate that he would explain the provisions of the bill to-morrow. The volubility of the debate pointed to trouble ahead. The temptation for a repetition of the threadbare arguments on the finances, but it is hoped by the committee that a prompt vote will be had and relief given the country at the earliest moment of the present uncertainty as to the purposes of Congress.

The House,

in its action to-day, gave very emphatic evidences of its views on the matter under consideration, provided for an increase of the legal tender circulation to four hundred millions. The first vote taken was on Mr. Dawes' amendment to make the amount three hundred and fifty-six millions. This was rejected by a majority of 102. The next vote, on Mr. Roberts' amendment to fix the amount at three hundred and eighty-five millions, was rejected by about the same vote. The vote on the bill fixing the amount at four hundred millions resulted in its passage—168 yeas to 77 nays.

Particulars of the Vote.

The vote stood: Republicans, yeas 114, nays 35; Democrats, yeas 54, nays 22. Of the New Jersey delegation, Mr. Butler voted yea. There were also nine members from New York and three from New Jersey on the same side. The Pennsylvania members voting for expansion were Messrs. Barnum, Barton, Harmer, Killinger, Meyers, Negley, O'Neill, Packer, Richmond, Ross, Shoemaker, Smith, Speer, Strawbridge, Taylor, and Todd. The West and South were solid for the bill. The final action of the House to-day, there can be no doubt that there will be an expansion of the currency.

Protection of Telegrams.

Mr. Pierce, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution in the House to-day to guard against the divulgement of telegraphic secrets. Under the Morse system there is no secrecy in private dispatches. An operator standing by an instrument can read the dispatches that are passing. Mr. McCreery & Co., loss not ascertained; insured for $5,000 in a Pittsburgh company. The Beaver County Printing Company and the *Argus and Radical* were insured for $5,000 in the following companies: Rochester, of Rochester, for $1,000; Lycoming, $2,000, and the Ætna, $2,000. J. R. Harran, attorney, whose office was in the second story, loses from $1,000 to $1,200; no insurance. J. S. Rutan and D. P. Hunter, who also had offices on the second floor, lose respectively $500 and $800; no insurance. The third floor was occupied by two halls, one occupied by the Odd Fellows, who lose $1,500, insured in the Rochester for $800, and the other occupied by the Masons, whose loss will reach $2,000, insured in the Lycoming for $1,000. The building was owned by Colonel M. S. Quay, whose loss will be from $13,000 to $15,000, insured in the following companies: Rochester $5,000, Lycoming $2,000 and the Ætna for $5,000. The origin of the fire is a mystery, as there was no fire left burning on the previous evening.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

Pittsburgh Selected as the Place, and May as the Time—Regulations for Election of Delegates.

PHILADELPHIA, March 23.—The Democratic State Central Committee resolved to hold the State Convention in Pittsburgh in May. A resolution was adopted that where Representative and Senatorial delegates have been already selected, they shall be taken to be delegates from the districts in which they severally reside, and that elections shall be held for all other districts not represented, or not fully represented in accordance with, and on the basis of the new apportionment. The new elections shall be held at such times and places as the City or County Executive Committee shall designate.

Even buffalo has its Tichborne. John Orton, one of a numerous family of that name has been convicted of perjury in swearing that, as Street Commissioner, he had done what he had never done, just as Arthur Orton swore that he, as an English subject, had been what he had never been. But John did n't bother the courts long, for they gave him his deserts on the first trial. Now let all other Ortons keep an eye on the truth, for they are sure to be punished for doing what they "ort n't."

FIRE IN INDIANAPOLIS.

Three Entire Blocks and a Number of Smaller Buildings Destroyed—Loss Between Three and Four Hundred Thousand Dollars.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 22.—The most destructive fire that has ever occurred in this city, broke out about 9 o'clock this evening, in the new four-story block of buildings known as the Mercantile row, on Pennsylvania street between Market and Ohio. The Mercantile row, consisting of six store-rooms almost completed, was entirely destroyed. From the Mercantile row the fire extended across the street to the Sheets block, on the corner of Ohio and Pennsylvania streets. This was also a new block of ten large store-rooms and hotel above, almost ready for occupation. The next building in the course of the fire was the Martindale block, on the corner of Pennsylvania and Market streets, of nine stores and a number of offices, which was entirely destroyed. From thence the fire continued to Chandler, Hardy & Co.'s Wabash street, and several smaller buildings in the rear of Martindale's block. All were destroyed. At half-past eight the fire is apparently under control, and will probably not extend further. The correct amount of loss cannot be ascertained at present, but it is estimated at between three and four hundred thousand dollars.

SECOND DISPATCH.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 22, 10 P. M.—The fire is entirely under control. The following is a partial list of estimated losses: J. H. Van Jer, on building $60,000—no insurance; John C. Wright, on building $10,000—insurance $5,000; William Mansur, on building, $15,000—insurance $5,000; W. H. Sheets, on building, $10,000; L. B. Martindale, on building, $10,000—fully insured; McCune & Son, tea store, goods mostly saved—loss fully covered by insurance; A. A. Scott, loss $1,000—covered by insurance. The following are also among the losers, but the amount of loss and insurance cannot be ascertained to-night: Charles Dennis, drug store; Smith's chemical and dye works; C. F. Mayer, oil paintings; W. R. Kidd, boots and shoes; office of the Home Insurance Company of New York; Dr. E. Pursell, dentist; Dr. S. E. Good, dentist; Clark, merchant tailor; Troutman's game depot; McKillip's Mercantile Agency; B. Martindale, book publisher. The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary.

METHODIST CONFERENCE AT BLAIRSVILLE.

Resume of Proceedings to Date—Distinguished Clergymen Present—Interesting Addresses, &c., &c.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA., March 21, 1874.

The fiftieth annual session of the Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met on the 18th instant at nine o'clock A. M., Bishop Foster, of Cincinnati, presiding. The roll was called, showing over two hundred ministers present. Dr. Pershing, of Pittsburgh, was elected Secretary, Revs. N. G. Miller, J. R. Mills and J. A. Pearce as assistants. Standing committees were appointed, and various resolutions approved. All supernumeraries were made effective; the superannuated list was continued. The Secretary announced the standing committees, which were announced in connection. Reports of the different colleges and seminaries were received and referred. A number of distinguished officials and ministers were present, Rev. Dr. Kynett, of Freedman's Aid Society, delivered a most effective address. Mrs. Sikes, missionary to China, Mrs. Kynett, secretary of Missionary Society, Foreign Missions, and Mrs. Lathrop, of Michigan, delivered most effective addresses. J. A. Danks and Chaplain McCabe enlivened the conference session of the afternoon by reading the different sociales amount to over eight hundred dollars. Missionary collections in the Conference amounted to over twenty-five thousand dollars. The present effective and itinerance movement of the ladies in Ohio was fully indorsed. Telegrams were sent to the Legislature opposing a further local option, and to other places, by the Conference. Much enthusiasm prevailed. The Conference has two hundred and fifty ministers from its bounds and one hundred and eighty ministers and fifty-three thousand seven hundred and twenty members. The Bishop's address to the class was much admired by all. Much good has been had as to the admission of elders not conforming to discipline. A number of reports were read and adopted.

Conference may not adjourn until Tuesday or Wednesday next. All the churches in the surrounding country will be supplied with preaching for the Sabbath. The ladies of Blairsville gave a tea and supper on Thursday night, which was enjoyed by all. Last evening the Conference was addressed by Rev. Dr. Babcock, of the New Hampshire Conference, and Rev. Dr. Cummings, of Pittsburgh, who addressed the meeting. The church is crowded at every meeting. Many of several of the thousand dollars to each—a direct tax on her people. Wyoming and Massachusetts reap a revenue of say $20,000 per annum by their prisons. Pennsylvania pays nearly $140,000 in taxes per annum for allowing a tax to her citizens.

Third. A new modern prison must soon be erected somewhere in the Western Penitentiary. Owing to the increasing number of convicts, and why not begin now, as it will require a year or two at least to finish the building? The number of prisoners in the county Workhouse (erected within the past five years) and adding them to those now in the Western Penitentiary, we have the total number of convicts doubled in this part of the State in the last ten years.

Fourth. All the information that can be obtained gives as the probable cost of a new prison, an amount less than one million of dollars, based on wheels some at six per cent. viz: $60,000 per annum, less than the interest on the debt of the county on this present institution. Therefore on the basis of the Lowe prison proving itself self-supporting, as our sister county Mckean has done, and as the State and as the State prisons of Ohio, Massachusetts, New

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1874.

THE duties on imports received at the Philadelphia Custom House for the month ending March 21, amounted to $176,159 75.

THE foreign imports at the port of New York for the week ending March 24, foot up $7,517,103. This is a large falling off compared with the entries for the week previous.

THE new Governor of Florida, made such by the death of Governor HART, is MARCELLUS B. STEARNS, a young man from Connecticut, who left college a dozen years ago to enter a Maine regiment, earned a commission, and since the war has been prominent in Florida politics.

THE Illinois Legislature has very properly defeated the Compulsory Education bill. That State has at present school house accommodation for less than three-fourths of its children who are of school age. The most imperative duty is the duty which lies nearest us. Make a thing possible before undertaking to make it obligatory, Messieurs Legislators.

THE Senatorial struggle in Massachusetts promises to be of a protracted and exciting character. The Republican strength on joint ballot is 193, and that of the opposition 87, giving the former a majority of 106; but the balloting has thus far been so diffused that it is at present impossible to conjecture in whose favor the contest will terminate. It has drawn into the list of active participants nearly all the prominent men of the State.

THERE appears to be a general panic in Internal Revenue circles just now, arising from a combination of causes, such as the temporary suspension of wholesale and retail dealers in spirits on account of the crusade of the women, the suspension of distillery operations for the same reason, the movements of speculators, and the anxiety of those interested in the liquor traffic to know what Congress is going to do in connection with it. It is by no means improbable that increased taxation on some articles other than liquor may become necessary before the adjournment of Congress.

AS SHOWING the steady downward tendency of freight rates, the following statement from the last annual report of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad Company is significant. The report says: "Rates have, of late years, tended downward so steadily and so rapidly that the average rate per ton per mile in 1872 was but little more than half the rate of 1868." The report of the Michigan Central Company also states that rates have sunk from 3.06 per ton per mile in 1865, to 1.56 in 1872, with a slight increase—1-100th of a cent—in 1873. Nearly all the principal roads of the country have had a like experience.

A FEW days ago we briefly referred to the encouraging progress in shipbuilding which was being made in various yards of the country. We now observe that California is making similar rapid strides in the development of this important industry. According to the San Francisco papers, fifteen vessels were last year built on the Pacific coast, south of Puget Sound, two of them large steamships. This year a much greater number will, it is expected, be built. The probabilities are that California is destined to be a great shipbuilding State in the future. There is no lack of excellent ship timber on the coast, while skilled labor is also abundant.

ALL the latest advices from Minnesota are united in declaring Indian Commissioner SMITH completely innocent of all dishonesty in the recent pine lands transaction in that State. While the verdict is against the sale, it exonorates Mr. SMITH from all complicity in it. We believe the Springfield *Republican* is the only opposition paper which has had the moral pluck to make editorial acknowledgment of its error in inculpating Commissioner SMITH in this matter. Those sheets which were loudest and hoarsest in the hue and cry against this upright but sorely slandered official, have as yet given no sign whatever that they regret their part in persecuting him. And they probably never will.

THE Democratic Legislature of the bandit State of Missouri, whose Executive, judges, sheriffs, constables, and the whole machinery of law, are set at defiance by a gang of notorious robbers and cut-throats, who plunder and terrorize the State with impunity, disturbed only by occasional visits from officers of other Commonwealths, who are promptly murdered on sight without the slightest check from the local authorities—like Democratic Legislature of that State, has exercised over the shortcomings of the Federal administration in various particulars. It is very touching—almost so much so as would be the solicitude of the accessories of a gang of Italian brigands for the proper government of Rome.

THE final official figures of the New Hampshire election are: WESTON, Democrat, 35,198; MCCUTCHINS, Republican, 34,183; BLACKMER, Prohibitionist, 2,098, scattering, 82: WESTON'S majority over MCCUTCHINS, 1,060, and the majority of all over WESTON, 1,037. There were towns and wards entitled to twenty-nine Representatives that failed to elect. Of these the Democrats were entitled to but one; in twenty-two others the Prohibitionists held the balance of power, and could have elected the Republican candidates, had they seen fit. In other towns electing eleven Democrats they also held the balance of power, and could have turned the scale in favor of the Republicans. Had they done this, instead of there being eleven Democratic majority in the House, there would have been thirty-three Republican majority, nearly entire in favor of retaining the Prohibitory law. They also defested the choice of four Republican Senators and three Republican Councilmen, every one of them, it is affirmed, friends of temperance. It is a new way of carrying out one's cherished principles to intrust their execution into the hands of the avowed enemies of such principles.

MANY papers are republishing the details of PRESTON S. BROOKS' brutal assault on the late Senator SUMNER in 1856. There are valid grounds for believing that the blow dealt by BROOKS materially hastened his own death. He was a proud, over-sensitive man, whom the false codes of the day forced into brutal positions, which left a perpetually corroding unhappiness in his mind. He knew that his "victory" over Senator SUMNER, as it was termed in the South, was a moral defeat, and there is no doubt that the consciousness of this fact haunted him from that time onward until his sudden death. We happen, moreover, to know that in his last illness he left a number of specially friendly messages for Congressman BURLINGAME, whom he had challenged for denouncing the assault, but whom he afterwards declined to fight. BROOKS lies buried in the little cemetery at Edgefield, South Carolina, and on his tombstone is this inscription:

"Preserved S. Brooks will be long remembered
As one in whom the virtues loved to dwell,
Though not by Him, this dispensation,
We know God's wisdom orders all things well."

His mother—now very aged—is still living in that neighborhood, or was, a short time ago, besides a younger brother, a planter of large intelligence and culture, but holding himself altogether aloof from politics.

JUDGING from the testimony which has thus far been given in the case, it does not seem probable that the trial of General HOWARD will result in proving any criminal intent in the management of the Bureau of which he was chief. The court consists of seven officers of high rank, with General SHERMAN as president, and is held under the bounty act of March, 1867. This law imposed upon the Freedmen's Bureau the duty of disbursing bounties to colored soldiers, sailors and marines. The officers selected for this duty were required "to hold and disburse the funds as other disbursing officers of the army." To establish the proper manner of disbursing according to the law, a number of heads of other bureaus have been called to define the construction of the law and the uniform practice and responsibility of disbursing officers under similar circumstances—where commissioned officers have been employed and where civil officers have been appointed. Quartermaster General MEIGS, General FOSTER, United States Engineers; Colonel BENET, Chief of Ordnance; Adjutant General TOWNSEND, Comptrollers TAYLER, FRENCH, RUTHERFORD, and BRODHEAD, have already given evidence in the case, its general tendency being to show that if the government has really sustained any loss in the management if the Freedman's Bureau, it has been by no fault of General HOWARD. The hitherto inactive Statute of Limitation FERNANDO WOOD seems likely to be brought to nought.

AN INTERESTING anecdote, to us fresh, of the late Dr. STRAUSS is going the round of the German press. Most people who know anything about the famous Doctor's life, know that he married a public singer, Miss AGNESE SCHEBEST. An acquaintance of the lady relates that when, soon after 1835, the renowned prima donna arrived at Stuttgart and by the range and beauty of her voice, as well as by her remarkable personal attractions, awakened general admiration, her admirers determined to get up a festive entertainment in her honor, to which all surrounding celebrities in literature and art were invited. Dr. STRAUSS, upon whom the beautiful artist had made a profound impression, timidly asked the writer to introduce him to the lady. This was done in the words, "Herr Dr. STRAUSS, the celebrated author of the Life of JESUS." Miss SCHEBEST, a devout Catholic, who had never heard of the book named, naturally took for granted that she had formed the acquaintance of an orthodox pious Catholic divine, and with crossed arms, bowing profoundly, she said: "Sir, I know not whether I should fall on my knees, or how else I should express my veneration for you." Those present with difficulty suppressed their smiles, as one can easily believe. Dr. STRAUSS, however, was not discomfited, but continued his addresses, which at length resul ed in their marriage. How unhappy and transient the connection proved is well known.

ABOUT STATISTICS AND SOMEWHAT MORE.

Perhaps it might have been reasonably expected that the American press should have taken more particular notice than it has done of the death of M. QUETELET, which occurred lately. Such notice was to be looked for, not because QUETELET was more celebrated than some other foreign savans recently deceased, or because he was in any way more intimately connected with American history and affairs, but because of his pre-eminence in a science with which his name is completely identified. Astronomy, physics, botany or any other of the popular sciences, might be pretty fully expounded without mention of any one of its cultivators, but it has been hardly possible to say much about the science of statistics without bringing in the name of the great Belgian savant. He was eminent in astronomy, in mathematics, in meteorology and in all departments of physical geography, but his reputation in life and his future fame undoubtedly rests upon the wonderful acumen and success with which he developed the principles and elaborated the details of the new science. QUETELET's object was not merely the accumulation and grouping of numbers; he aspired to fathom and establish the laws which regulate the moral as well as the physical phenomena of individual and social life.

Dwelling upon the subject of QUETELET's labors, a foreign paper reminds its readers that he was the first to direct attention to the fact, at present so generally known, that in the same numerical population year for year the same number of crimes of a given category is committed, that is, if no extraordinary crisis interrupt the natural march of events or no preventive measures be applied to the suppression of the evil. The same law, as he proved, is equally true of non-criminal aberrations. Thus, in any city great or small, year after year, the same proportion of the people who write letters, make mistakes in addressing and posting them, and the distribution of their mistakes into kinds, also remains the same. The same proportion of old women marry young men, and vice versa. The great statistician has thus, it is claimed, detected and, so to say, organized the moral and physical forces of peoples, and at least laid the foundation for an entirely new system of administration, a system resting upon natural laws.

As an example of the very disagreeable truths which the statistician, "the thinker of the realm of numbers," sometimes extracts from them and holds up before the eyes of onlookers, the foreign paper already cited refers to the terrible light shed by German statistics on the subject of drunkenness in his native country, Belgium. Everybody, it seems, has long known that a large proportion of the Belgians are excessively given to brandy-poison, but it was reserved for statistics to show that, besides the usual consequences of drinking, the worst result, the drunkard's madness, is steadily on the increase among the laboring population. Last December, Dr. LEFEBVRE a prominent physician delivered a lecture before the Belgian Academy of Science, in which he showed that seventeen per cent. of the cases of insanity in Belgium are caused by the excessive use of ardent spirits. In the discussion which followed, one member of the Academy, Mr. CROCQ expressed the opinion that the improved culture of the people is the only remedy that can be applied to the prevalent drunkenness. It appears, however, that English experts after examination have pronounced the brandy commonly sold in Belgium extremely deleterious to health. Of course, the meaning is that it is drugged or compounded with substances still more actively poisonous than alcohol. But this fact is rendered of no practical force by another fact, that the dealers, wholesale and retail, in the poisonous mixture, are so powerful in the politics of Belgium that neither the Liberals nor the clerical party dare to meddle with their nefarious trade.

It may be that in some other countries as well as Belgium one of the first steps in the direction of effectual temperance reform would be an improvement in the quality of the strong drink permitted to be sold. No fact can be better attested than the fact that, even in the United States, in Western Pennsylvania for instance, habitual, even "hard" habitual drinking was less destructive of health and life in early times than it is now. No doubt it was always injurious, that it always produced direful evils, but the evils it caused were slight and insignificant in comparison with the desolation and horrors which are now fairly ascribed to the habit. Nor is there any good reason to doubt that the difference is largely traceable to the atrocious mixtures which are now frequently sold under the names of whisky and brandy. The most devilish feature of this adulteration is that one effect of the foreign substances introduced is to excite and to render fixed the physicl conditions of the human system which demand imperiously the gratification only to be derived from repetitions of the dose. It is notorious that some of the articles used in adulteration act, one might say, almost directly upon the will, undermining its energy of resistance. As a rule, positive physical disease is a speedy consequence of the swallowing of the mixtures, and it is a disease which seems susceptible of cure only in its early stages. Whatever might be the ill effects of the daily and often repeated drams of the good old citizens and church members of former generations, they were the mere effects of too much whisky; they were not the effects of various poisons inevitably and under all circumstances malignant in their influence when taken into the human system. In short, if a portion of the zeal, resolution and money now applied in the promotion of temperance were directed to the procurement of adequate scientific inspection of liquors and the punishment of their adulteration, we doubt not that excellent and most important results, social and moral, would be obtained.

A COMPLIMENTARY DEFENSE.

We referred, a few days ago, to the coarse vituperation with which certain German journalists in Chicago had assailed the temperance crusaders, remarking in substance that it far exceeded the limits which Americans not squeamish in the use of words would feel bound to observe when criticising the conduct of any women of respectable character. We might have added with confidence that the writers of these opprobrious denunciations and appeals were no doubt responsible for the violent treatment which the praying women had undergone at the hands of a ruffianly mob.

One, doubtless the most abusive of the writers referred to, has published a defense of his style of invective, in response to criticisms which it had called forth in the English newspapers of Chicago. Having mislaid the paper, we are unable to reproduce the defense with satisfactory fullness, but the gist of it was that the writer knew no good reason why women who disregarded the laws of right and propriety, should enjoy immunity from criticism, or why they should be treated differently from members of the other sex. Indeed, he looked with utter contempt upon the silly American sentimentalism which, in relation to conduct and propriety discriminates between man and woman, extending to one a degree of indulgence or a degree of reticence which it withholds from the other. True respect for the female understanding and intelligence forbids any such distinction.

This explanation would probably seem not only sufficient but rather flattering than otherwise to many American women. Even that great woman renowned in science, MARY SOMERVILLE, in her memoirs confesses how mortified she used to feel in the days of her obscurity when addressed by gentlemen in terms which plainly implied their belief that she, as a woman, could have neither part nor interest in any high argument. No ignominious defeat in fair, downright debate could have annoyed her so much as the quiet, disdainful assumption that she was not qualified for the discussion of a serious or difficult subject, even though it were a subject interesting to all rational human beings. So if persons so unlike and far apart may be thought of together, one may fancy that there are women who would rather be reviled in the coarsest terms, if they could be spared only out of deference for their sex. And some might be all the more easily reconciled to such treatment, in the cheerful conviction that they were in no danger of defeat in the contest. According to Dr. ORESTES A. BROWNSON, "even a woman's tongue is a weapon that is more effectual than a man's fists," a truth which he touchingly confesses to have been "practically proved to him personally some years ago at the tea table of one of her nelces" by a celebrated female preacher, whom he names.

Still no arguments yet alleged by any one seem to justify the sort of denunciation with which we have found fault. As already remarked, the effect of it in all probability was to instigate the ruffianly violence which has already enlisted sympathy for the sufferers and their cause among people who before regarded neither with favor. Though it were conceded that women and men ought to be verbally or rhetorically dealt with in the same strain, the Chicago writer's vituperation would still be censurable. In fact, it irresistibly suggested the suspicion that its author was exercising a liberty which he had not very long enjoyed; its spirit was unmistakably that of those valorous and passionately all-knowing knights of the ink bottle whom BISMARCK and other German statesmen think it the part of sound wisdom to restrain by law from the unrestricted indulgence of their genius.

And yet Americans ought not to overlook or forget the provocation which their German fellow-citizens feel bound to resent. Whatever Americans say or think about beer, whatever may be the truth about its effects, Germans from childhood learn to regard it as we regard tea or coffee, as a perfectly harmless luxury. Nor can it be successfully denied that they are upon the whole a temperate as well as an industrious, law-abiding element of our population. Archbishop PURCELL, in his well known circular letter, having declared that he could not call it sinful to drink beer, Dr. J. G. HOLLAND (TIMOTHY TITCOMB), in his letter to the Archbishop emphatically asserts that the women's crusade never would have been begun if nothing worse were drunk than beer. That is indubitably true. Against mere beer drinkers there could have been no call or motive for the strange movement. But wherever Germans are numerous they, however temperate and blameless members of society, are the persons not only disturbed in the enjoyment of their time-honored customs, but assailed with insult and held up to public odium by the method of the crusaders. If indignation sometimes gets the better of their Teutonic phlegm, the fact is not remarkable.

Before closing we cannot but express sincere regret that in some way the Germans cannot separate their cause from that of the consumers of ardent spirits. Surely it might be done, and that they do not at least try to effect the divorce is, we suppose, the only ground of just complaint against them.

TO REGARD the young Prince NAPOLEON'S prospects of one day reigning over FRANCE as brighter now than formerly does not imply any anticipation of an early Bonapartist revolution. While many indications plainly enough point to the possibility of a future restoration of the empire, an event not long ago almost universally held to be impossible, indications fully as plain seem to show that many years must elapse before NAPOLEON the Fourth or any other member of the family can be accepted by the French people as their ruler. At the late celebration at Chiselhurst the young Prince professed his willingness to abide by the decision of a plebiscite. But, as the *Courrier des Etats Unis* remarked, a plebiscite is being continually taken, an appeal is frequently made to the people, as the elections from time to time held to supply vacancies in the National Assembly are in reality, each of them, a partial plebiscite. Now, of the fourteen partial elections of this kind within the last two months, only a single one resulted in favor of a Bonapartist candidate, and in that case Legitimist and Orleanist votes contributed to the result. Such a fact does not manifest the prevalence of much Bonapartist feeling among the people. Republicanism, so styled, is clearly in the ascendant.

This very ascendancy of Republicanism, with the triumph of such men as LEDRU-ROLLIN, is one of the causes which some look upon as certain, after a while, to make the empire necessary to the maintenance of property and order. It was so interpreted lately by the London *Times*, and in England strong faith is evidently placed in the fortunes of the young Prince. Such an act of the Queen as offering upon him, the other day, the Order of the Garter, may or may not have been evidence of such faith. On the one hand, it is true that the order named is the highest in Great Britain, and one of the most exalted dignities in the world, as a rule conferred on only the most elevated personages of the realm and on crowned heads. The only recent exceptions to this rule, have been the Queen's sons-in-law, the Prince Imperial of Germany, the Prince of Hesse, and Prince CHRISTIAN of Holstein. On the other hand, however sublime a dignity the Order of the Garter may be, it is, as a disgusted Frenchman once observed of the late bestowal of it upon the Emperor NAPOLEON, nothing more than a plaything in the hand of a woman. England needs French friendship, and the Queen did not mean to defy the republic. She simply indulged her liking for the Empress, or her sympathy for fallen royalty by making the young Prince the birthday present, most likely to gratify both him and his mother.

THE New York *Times* publishes some remarkable statistics in regard to the relative proportion of crimes perpetrated in that city by citizens of America and foreign origin, the figures being taken from the official records from 1860 to 1872, of the police, the city prisons and the penitentiary. Of the commitments to the city prisons during this period, nearly seven-tenths of all were foreign born, and more than one-half Irish alone, when all the foreign should be considerably less than half, and the Irish but a little over one-fifth, on the basis of the population. Foreigners and their children represent nearly ninety-five in every one hundred prisoners. Graduating the penitentiary statistics in the same manner, the following is a correct statement:

In 10,000.	Prisoners.	Should be.	Less.	Excess.
American born	3,722	5,560	1,728	....
Of American parts	621	....	....	....
Of foreign parents	3,691	....	....	....
Foreign born	6,978	4,450	....	2,528
Irish born	8,584	2,150	....	1,864
German born	3,150	1,600	450	....
Other foreign	1,296	690	....	606

The Irish have over three-quarters of all foreign born paupers and criminals, while entitled to less than one-half. The figures are thus in 10,000: Irish in fact, 7,563; should be by proportion of all foreign, 4,800; excess over due proportion in numbers, 2,763 in every 10,000. Of the German it should be said that they are invariably fewer in number than they should be by due proportion of population—in some cases very largely under the rate, while of English, Scotch, French and Italian, the proportion of crime and poverty is about what it should be by population. The *Times* claims that the basis of all the calculations is official, and may be found in the census and the reports of the police and of the Commissioners of Charity and Correction.

"COMMISSIONER OF FORESTRY is the title of the last office recommended by President Grant."—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Why not? Our consumption of timber during the year included in the census returns of 1870 was 12,755,643,000 feet; and if we add lath, shingles, timber and other products not included as lumber, and allow a reasonable increase during the last five years, the present amount can scarcely be less than twenty billions; and the whole supply in the country at this rate would last but sixteen years and three months. In view of such facts as these, can we afford to let this ruin approach till it becomes an imminent and extreme danger? Doubtless our country can produce all the lumber it wants, to the end of time, besides feeding our millions and their increase. But to do this, we must begin to study the economies of forestry. Nearly every European country has taken measures to provide against an exhaustion of these resources, and for their renewal. We should be able to profit by their experience, and avail ourselves of whatever is worth knowing in their experience. The proposed Commission of Forestry will have for its sole object the collection and diffusion of information upon this question, which is to become one of the great problems of the future. Whatever is done in the way of planting or preserving forests must be mostly by private enterprise; but in order to do this with the greatest economy, we want all the light which experience can show, or that science can invent. The fling of the *Courier-Journal* is without point.

Imports of British and Irish Produce.

The following is an official statement from the Bureau of Statistics of some of the principal articles of British and Irish produce and manufactures imported into the United States, in the two months ending February 28, 1874, compared with the corresponding period of 1873:

	1873.	1874.
Cloths, value	$29,250	$50,483
Coopers' ingots, cwts	94,886	200
Copper, manufactured, cwts	....	404
Haberdashery, millinery and embroidery, value	$469,128	$408,796
Hardware and cutlery, value	$150,705	$114,249
Pig iron, tons	19,110	10,305
Bar iron, tons	8,497	868
Railroad iron, tons	48,901	16,978
Hoop or sheet iron, tons	5,852	1,902
Steel, unwrought, tons	3,373	1,922
Pig lead, tons	1,136	301
Linen manufactures and piece goods of all kinds, yards	27,986,810	24,017,710
Machinery and mill work, value	$102,921	$43,291
Paper, writing or printing, value	$27,689	$19,144
Salt, rock or white, tons	41,639	32,657
Spirits, British or Irish, galls	15,183	10,052
Silk manufactures, ribbons of all kinds, value	$34,092	$23,993
Woolen clothes, value	$361,313	$361,274
Articles of silk and other materials, value	$26,712	$14,526
Manufactures of wool and other material, yards	27,219,190	17,582,220

The inspiring sunshine of the season has touched the heart of an Indianapolis girl, who concludes a love letter thus: "The ring is round, the dish is square, and we'll be married the next State fair. The bell shall ring the drum shall play, and we'll go dancing all the way. Answer soon. Mary."

SONG OF THE DECANTER.

A LITERARY AND TYPOGRAPHICAL CURIOSITY.

There was an old decanter,
And it had been
gaping wide; the
rosy wine had
ebbed away
and left
its crystal side;
and the wind
went humming,
humming;
up and
down the
sides it flew;
and through the
reed-like
hollow neck
the wildest notes on it
blew. I placed it on the
window, where the blast was
blowing free; and fancied that its
pale mouth sang the queerest strains
to me. "They tell me, puny conquerors!
the Plague has slain his ten
and War his hundred thousands of the
very best of men; but I" 'twas thus
the bottle spoke—"but I have conquered
more than all your famous conquerors, so
feared and famed of yore. Then come
ye youths and maidens, come drink from
out my cup the beverage that dulls the
brain and burns the spirit up; that puts to shame the conquerors that
slay their scores below, for this
has deluged millions with the
lava-tides of woe. Through
in the path of battle dark-
est waves of blood will
roll, yet while I killed
the body I have
charmed but very
soul. The chol-
era, the
sword,
such ruin never
wrought, as I, in
mirth or malice, on the
innocent have brought.
And
still I breathe upon them, and they
shrink before my breath; and year by year
my thousands tread the dismal road to death."

STATE NEWS.

Amateur journalists have brought out a new paper in Reading—*The School Boys' Mail.*

A new Evangelical church is to be built at the corner of Third and Court streets, Reading.

A Reading youth of sixteen has been gray-haired since he was nine years old. It is attributed to a kick from a horse.

Rev. W. A. Fleming, of the Presbyterian church, Johnstown, will preach his farewell sermon on next Sunday morning.

The award to the owners of real estate and tenants on the site selected for a new postoffice building in Philadelphia is $624,343 99.

West Reading, across the river from Reading, wants to be incorporated as a borough, with three or four square miles of territory.

Hon. Henry Wilson, Vice President of the United States, was in Philadelphia on Saturday, the guest of George W. Childs of the *Ledger.*

A gentle zephyr blew a hole through a heavy plate-glass door in Erie, on Sunday night. The wind never blows very hard there, they say.

In Lebanon borough they have a "frontage tax," which some of the citizens of that goodly borough refuse to pay, regarding it as unconstitutional.

The fire-brick establishment of Reese, Hammond & Co., at Bolivar, Westmoreland county, was destroyed by fire on Sunday. Loss, $5,000; no insurance.

Philadelphia has two new periodicals, *Our Venture*, by Russel & Phillips, and *The Comet*, an amateur monthly, by Messrs. Price, Van Leer & Finn.

There are nearly 500 applications for license filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions in Berks county. No fear of crusaders there.

Litiz, Lancaster county, has a baby horror, and John Diehm, wife and daughter have been arrested. The body of the babe was found buried on Diehm's premises.

Henry Smith, of Schoonersville, Lehigh county, hanged himself to the beams of a barn, on last Friday evening because a bar-keeper would not "hand up" his drinks.

Owing to the stagnation of business, the rolling mill and nail factory of Seifert, McManus & Co., of Reading, have suspended, throwing 400 persons out of employment.

And now Chester has a bigamist. One wife the man, whose name is Sterling, got in England twenty years ago, and after that long an absence she returns to claim the erring one.

Mr. Peter Mulvehill, of Lower Yoder township, Cambria county, owns a cow that recently gave birth to three well developed calves—all of them living and thriving finely.

John McDonnell, who was arrested in Mercer county and taken to Pottsville for trial for a murder committed eleven years ago, has been convicted of murder in the first degree.

The puddlers in the Susquehanna Rolling Mill at Columbia, struck last week because the company employed a man who had been working below the scale of prices at another mill.

Chester is a very progressive town, but the City Council voted down a resolution extending an invitation to President Grant to become the guest of the city on the day of the launch on the plea of economy.

There was a shooting affray at Pittston, Luzerne county, on Saturday last, in which David Isaacs, a mine boss, shot and fatally wounded David Evans, a miner. The shooting was done in self-defense.

At John's colliery, St. Clair, Schuylkill county, a boy named Patrick Manion, aged fifteen years, was kicked on the head by a mule, the blow breaking his skull open and spattering the brains about.

A Williamsport boy ran to his grand mother's the other day, and said: "Granny, run down to our house quick, for dad's drunk as a fool and man has to run around awhile with them crusade folks."

Mrs. Phillips, of Titusville, left her daughter Maggie, aged four, alone in the house while absent for a short time. The little one went too near the stove, her clothes caught fire, and she was fatally burned, dying a few hours later.

Mary Thomas, colored, attempted to commit suicide in Harrisburg on Sunday, by jumping into the canal. She changed her mind after floundering in the cold water for while, screamed for help, and was pulled out, a wetter and a wiser woman.

The Pottsville *Journal* says that during a fire at Alaska shaft, a man knowing that two thousand pounds of powder were stored in a building near the fire, removed his dogs and goat to a place of safety and left his wife and children to take care of themselves.

Joseph Schall, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of York, Pennsylvania, died on Wednesday night. He was a member of Captain Michael H. Spangler's company, that marched from that place, in 1811 in defense of Baltimore, and participated in the battle of North Point. He was about eighty-five years old.

The Lewistown *Gazette* will, after April 1, pass into the hands of George R. and W. Maslin Frysinger, sons of George Frysinger, the present proprietor. The latter veteran journalist will retain editorial control of the paper. With a new press and new material, the *Gazette* will doubtless continue its career of progress and success.

Among the deaths in Philadelphia last week were those of ten persons who had reached four-score years and upwards, as follows: Catharine Meany, aged 80; Cornelia Newcomb, 81; Catharine Wonderly, 81, Ann Alexander, 82; Michael Bright, 82; John Brewer, 83; Mary Wellerton, 85; Margaret Booth, 86; Henry D. Wilckens, 87, and Sarah Morrison, 98.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph* of the 23d says: Joseph Behm, the brother of the victim of Rosentine and Moody, was yesterday buried in a grave adjoining that of the murdered man. His grief at the untimely death of Abraham, with whom he had lived all his life, had no doubt the effect of hurrying Joseph to his grave. He was almost seventy years of age.

The Meadville *Republican* says: Mr. Robert Dickson, (brother of Mr. Joseph Dickson, of this place,) who lives in Hayfield township, four miles north of this city, is over ninety years of age, yet still has supervision of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He does his own chores in the winter and, with some assistance from hired help, performs the laborious farm duties of summer. He frequently walks to and from the city, a distance of eight miles. The brothers came to this city in 1794. The "city" was then composed of the old block house, which stood on the spot now occupied by the residence of Mr. James E. McFarland, and the inhabitants were three families—those of General Meade, after whom Meadville was named; Mr. Van Horne, father of Mrs. Alexander Irvin, of Vernon township, and Mr. James Dickson, father of the brothers above mentioned.

Hon. Alexander Irvin, of Clearfield county, died on Friday morning last, at an advanced age. He was found dead in his bed, having retired the evening before in his usual health. He was for many years conspicuous in the politics of Pennsylvania, and served a term in the Senate, probably forty years ago. In 1846 he was elected to Congress in a strong Democratic district although a pronounced Whig, and in 1849 he was appointed United States Marshal for the Western district by President Taylor, but two years afterwards he resigned and was succeeded by his brother. When the Republican party was organized, he actively supported its candidates, although he was not a candidate for office. In 1872 he was a delegate to the Cincinnati Convention, where he supported the nomination of Adams, but afterwards favored the election of Mr. Greeley. He was highly respected in his community.

The Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* of the 23d inst. says: Some months since Justus W. Acuff, for years a resident of Gwynedd township, Montgomery county, showing unmistakable evidences of insanity, was taken to Kirkbride's Asylum, in West Philadelphia. He has remained there since, at times becoming very violent, tearing off his clothing, and making demonstrations that compelled a careful guard over him. On Thursday, while in building near the fire, removed his dogs and goat to a place of safety and left his wife and children to take care of themselves.

The census of France, just completed, shows a population of 36,102,921. Of this number, 21,865,625 live in cities, and 13,495,310 in the country.

Now is the time for Bald Mountain to crack open and "bust" if it ever intends to. The New York *Herald* has a correspondent on each side of the summit.

Farmer (?) Donnelly, of Minnesota, although fresh from the plow and recent from the flail, only needs time and practice to develope into a very fair politician.

The opera of "Rip Van Winkle" is about to be performed at Melbourne, Australia, by an Italian company, under the title of "Un Sonno di Venti Anni."

Michigan is happy. A resolution has been passed by the Legislature that in view of the large balance in the State Treasury no tax shall be levied for this year.

General McClellan is writing for *Harper's Monthly* a series of articles on army organizations throughout the world. The work when completed will be very valuable.

Chicago churches are still filled with wars and rumors of wars, till it would almost seem as though the church militant in that city would have also to become a church military.

The New Jersey Legislature has conferred on a functionary in Jersey City "power to adopt rules to prevent conflagrations." This may prove cheaper than a fire department.

Large quantities of grape slips are now shipping from Missouri to France. It is said that the vine gives double the growth in a single season of those grown in French soil.

Next Monday Congress will take action on the bill making general quarantine regulations for the nation. After fighting for this all session this point has at length been reached.

It is alleged that the number of beggars to be found in New Orleans is greater now than it was ever known to be before. The individuals are of all ages, colors and previous conditions.

A correspondent, writing upon the subject of the women's crusade, asks, "If the dead could speak to us from their graves, what would they say?" We rather guess they would say, "Let us out."

Reverdy Johnson now has a client in whose success he is wonderfully interested. It is Reverdy himself, and he is suing the Baltimore and Ohio Road for $5,000 worth of professional service.

Senator Bogy says he is not disposed "to covet the stormy life and frequently-disputed reputation of Col. Benton." This is good! On the whole, we don't think it could possibly be improved upon.

The Chicago *Times* charges that the Relief and Aid Society of that city still retain on their executive committee men who have been publicly convicted of gross misconduct in their relations to the relief work.

Rochester, New York, is just now having a lively time with its gas companies. In nearly 2,000 households or business places, kerosene has been substituted for gas, and still the work goes on.

Mr. Pierce, a brother of the Boston Congressman, will complete the editorial labor on Senator Sumner's works, the tenth volume of which is in the hands of the printer, while the material for two more volumes has been prepared.

A New England preacher says: "The morals of the city of Washington are so corrupt that they create a stench, the odor of which causes the man in the moon to hold his nose." Where did he get his etherial authority concerning the nasal organ of the imagined resident of the moon?

A BOGUS COUNT.

Paul Schoeppe's Remarkable Career in St. Louis—He Gets the Appointment of Assistant Postmaster—His Final Exposure and Flight.

We have already laid before the readers of the COMMERCIAL an account of the career of the notorious Paul Schoeppe in Chicago. In the St. Louis *Journal* of the 16th inst., was the following record of the doings of the accomplished scoundrel in St. Louis:

Considerable excitement has existed among our German citizens the last few days concerning the operations of one

PAUL SCHOEPPE,

who represented himself as the lineal descendant of royal blood, and possessor of immense wealth in the old country, and the scion of a noble connection and family long pre-eminent in the public affairs of Germany. His

FIRST APPEARANCE IN ST. LOUIS

was in 1873, when he rented a room on the corner of Sixth and Spruce streets, and like a spider in its web, he waited the coming of his game. In his peregrinations he formed the acquaintance of Dr. Makk, editor-in-chief of the St. Louis *Evening Courier*. He represented himself as a gentleman of refinement and education, claiming that he was educated at some of the first colleges in Prussia, and having a fine address and being a fluent and pleasant conversationalist, he soon ingratiated himself in the confidence of Dr. Makk, who gave him a place on the paper. He was soon discovered that Schoeppe was not as prolific with the pen as he was with his tongue, and after a trial of three weeks he was discharged from the paper. But he did not use the short time he was on the paper to no purpose. He formed the acquaintance of almost every prominent German family in the city, and representing himself as being assistant editor of that respectable and enterprising journal, he made many acquaintances and was treated with courtesy and respect wherever he went. Under the name of J. P. Schulenburg, a name, by the way, he held when on the *Courier*, he was appointed

ASSISTANT POSTMASTER

at Carondelet, and there enlarged his name as well as his newspaper connections. He called himself Count Hans Paul Vonder Schulenburg Assebery, and claimed to be connected with the *Democrat* as well as the *Courier*. He was a

WHALE AMONG THE LADIES

who doted on him as a rara avis of this country, and he was sailing along smoothly, when all at once he was

DISMISSED FROM HIS POSITION.

He said he was being persecuted, and still donned his plumage as a count, and treated with disdain the many whispers being circulated about him. He claimed to have been an officer in the imperial guard in the old country, served through the war of '66, in which Austria was humbled, with distinction and honor. He had all the documents necessary to prove his assertions, which, however, are supposed to be forgeries, and could relate more tales of valor and narrate more exploits than any stay-at-home war patriot in America. He left Germany, his nobility and wealth, so he says, for political reasons, and came to this land of plebeian equality, where all were free, and where he could have a larger display for his talents. In 1868 he flourished as a journalist and an engineer in Chicago and Illinois. His

BRIGHT DREAMS WERE DISPELLED

on the 22d of last February, and he was somewhat set back in his operations, under the following circumstances: He was standing in the parlor of the Southern Hotel when he was accosted by Mr. Paul Schellack, a gentleman recently arrived from Germany, and who cannot speak a word of English, when the following colloquy occurred: "How are you, Paul Schoeppe," said Mr. Schellack, extending his hand.

"I am not the man you call me," said the so-called count in English, evidently intending to create the impression that he was not a German.

Mr. Schellack, feeling he could not possibly be mistaken in the identity of the man, spoke of the matter to Mr. Harnsen, city editor of the *Courier*, who gave him his suspicions concerning the count, and the two together visited Schoeppe, when the latter told him in plain and forcible German, "you are not the man you represent yourself to be,

YOU ARE A CONVICT."

Schoeppe denied it, and persisted he was no imposter. Mr. Harnsen told him he would have to clear himself of the accusation or be exposed. He started in to do it, and the man connected with the *Courier*, and the count then went to Tony Faust's saloon, on Fifth and Elm streets, when the count was told he had to clear himself or run the risk of exposure. He was subjected to a

SCRUTINIZING EXAMINATION,

and his statements were so conflicting that all doubt was removed. The count, however, remained undisturbed amid the many allegations made against him, and showed his usual vitality, claiming he was "just up from Texas." Thursday last Mr. Schellack and a German friend from Bismarck, a small town on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, went before a notary public and

MADE AFFIDAVIT

to the effect that they knew Schoeppe in Germany, that he went by the name of Paul Schoeppe, and identified him by his personal appearance; Mr. Schellack swearing he went to school, and occupied the same room with him for two years in the gymnasium, and that he knew him by certain marks and scars he had on his person, among which were a couple of scars on the forehead, caused by being accidentally shot when he was a boy. Schoeppe, upon being informed of this intended exposure, on Saturday resigned his position as assistant postmaster at Carondelet and left, as is now ascertained, for parts unknown.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Horace Greeley's estate foots up about $125,000, free of all liabilities.

Manitoba demands an extension of its area from 9,000,000 to 109,000,000 acres.

The most intellectual drunkenness is said to be hashish-intoxication. Don't try it.

The latest sharp thing out is in ladies' umbrellas, in the shape of a sword handle.

Real estate rose quite rapidly yesterday in town. Some old-fashioned people call it dust.

The North Carolina volcano has already converted a distiller, and is calling upon his friends to pray for him.

The suicidal mania is now prevailing to an extent equaled only by the periodical French craze for self-sacrifice by drowning in the Seine.

The census of France, just completed, shows a population of 36,102,921. Of this number, 21,865,625 live in cities, and 13,495,310 in

STEAMBOAT DISASTER.

Boat Blown Up on the Mississippi—Seven Killed and Eight Wounded.

MEMPHIS, March 24.—A special to the *Appeal* from Helena, Ark., to-day, says the towboat Cresent City, from New Orleans for St. Louis, with a tow of five freight barges, one fuel barge and a trading boat laden with thirteen tons of sugar, blew up at 8:30 this morning at the foot of Montezuma Island, ten miles below here. Every part of the boat was blown to atoms. She sunk in three minutes. The barges were all consumed by fire. The following is the list of the lost: Captain James Dawson, Mate Henry Gessler, Pilot John Ostrander and wife, Pilot Wm. Mundy, Watchman Dan. Mattle, cabin-boy, name unknown. Three colored firemen were wounded. George Van Houton, pilot, had a leg dislocated. Patrick Bacon, second engineer, was bruised. Wm. Dunn, second cook, was scalded. Peter Hall, proprietor of the trading boat, was badly bru sed. His family were all saved and are on board the steamer Phil Allen, bound for Memphis, as are also the wounded, who are under the treatment of a physician from Friar's Point. The remainder of the crew are with them, rendering every assistance. The Allen arrived at the scene a few moments after the explosion, and rendered every assistance. The Crescent City was owned by the Mississippi Valley Transportation Company, and valued at $70,000. Captain Good, agent of the line here, is making every arrangement for the wounded. John Ostrander and wife, who were lost, leave six children, who are in St. Louis. His wife had accompanied him on a pleasure trip.

MEMPHIS, March 25.—From the survivors of the Crescent City, who arrived here this morning on the steamer Phil. Allen, the following additional particulars of the disaster are obtained:

William Briggs, first engineer, who was on watch at the time, states that at the time of the explosion he was aft, engaged in welding a fire-hook, when he was suddenly knocked down by the concussion, though he heard no unusual noise. Springing to his feet he started forward, but was stopped by the steam, and a moment afterward found he was standing in the water and realizing his danger ran up stairs, closely followed by water. Within three minutes after the explosion the boat sunk, leaving only the after part of the roof above water, upon which the survivors were huddled until rescued by the Phil. Allen's steamer. Dr. Moore also emphatically states that at the time of the explosion the boat was carrying one hundred and forty pounds of steam, and that fifteen minutes before he had tried the steam and found it flush. He can give no theory as to the cause of the explosion. The boat had five barges in tow containing five hundred tons of coal, six hundred tons of sugar and two hundred tons of queensware, all of which was lost. In addition to the list of casualties reported last night, Frank Kelley, St. Louis, day watchman, Wm. Dunn, second cook, Wheeling, died on Phil. Allen. Clarence Adsit, cabin boy, Cairo, and the following colored firemen, John Davis, Ki Adams, Cincinnati, Ben Johnson, Elizabethtown, Ky., were left here. Those who were wounded: James Brewster, cabin boy, Madison, Ind., cut in the head; Arthur Welsh, ronster, St. Louis, cut in the head; Thomas J. McKurn, roustabout, Memphis, shoulder badly bruised; Lizzie Ross, chambermaid, Cairo, skull fractured; George and Albert Hall, sons of the proprietor of the trading boat, Davenport, Iowa, considerably bruised, their father was also badly scalded about the chest. The following are unhurt: James O'Conner, Pittsburgh; Frank Miller, Peoria, Illinois; Gus. Sauer, Jake Lichti, Louis Meyer, Dresser, Henry Edenson, Charles Harrison, Henry Murphy, Allen Cooper, George Telley, O. V. Lodis, Attress Ross, Cairo; Mrs. Hall and four children, Davenport; and the following colored firemen: James Hughes, Moundsville, West Virginia; Jerry Thomas, Brownsville, Pennsylvania; James Robinson, Dave Acker, Dick Harris and Allen Jones, St. Louis. All the wounded, together with these unhurt, except George Van Houten, pilot, whose left leg is dislocated, left for St. Louis, on the City of Vicksburg. The survivors express the highest terms of the treatment received from the officers of the Phil. Allen. None of the bodies of the killed were recovered.

TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

Urbana, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

URBANA, O., March 25, 1874.

John Stokes, saloon keeper, was arrested and tried in two cases to-day on the charge of keeping his saloon open on Sunday. He pleaded guilty in both cases, and was fined fifty dollars in each case and five days imprisonment in the jail, and ten days in the second case. The ladies are still working diligently, with hopes of clearing the city of all saloons.

Youngstown.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 25, 1874.

The women commenced crusading yesterday. About seventy-five turned out, visiting a number of saloons and praying and singing in each. To day about eighty visited other saloons and *hotels*, singing and praying at each place. They were treated courteously everywhere, but made no converts. Mass meetings are held every night. The excitement is increasing.

CONFERENCE NOTES.

Generous Hospitality of the Blairsville—Contributions for the Support of Aged Ministers and Widows of Deceased Preachers—Anniversaries and Collections—Woman's Rights—Transfer of Rev. Dr. C. A. Holmes—Pleasant Incidents at the Residence of Rev. H. Kensabaugh—Blairsville Ladies' Seminary—J. McCreighton, Esq., Etc.

Notwithstanding there were over three hundred ministers, besides the wives of many of the preachers and lay visitors, the Conference was grandly entertained at Blairsville, the different denominations generally offered hospitality.

In addition to the proceedings already published, we have gleaned from official sources many other items of interest. During the year the churches in the bounds of the Conference contributed $10,335 99 for the worn out preachers and the widows of deceased ministers. Eleven thousand dollars was the sum assessed for that purpose. This fund was distributed to twenty-three superannuated preachers, and thirty-two widows and an orphan child, in sums ranging from $200 down to lesser amounts. Just before Conference adjourned, an aged preacher retired from active work, and the sum of $400 was raised on the spot and presented to him, notwithstanding the preachers and visiting laymen had already given liberally to other objects.

The Conference decided to raise $2,500, as the Conference quota, for the support of the Bishops, and also quota, for the Freedmen's Aid Society. The Conference took strong action in regard to collections for the Church Extension Society, requiring collections to be taken in all the churches, and the preachers, while their characters were pending, to report the amount of these benevolent collections. Five hundred dollars were contributed as the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Coe's speech and songs of Chapel McCabe, the Corresponding Secretary of the Society. A like sum was also raised for the Freedmen's Aid Society.

Great enthusiasm attended the Missionary Anniversary. Notwithstanding the late disturbed condition of finances, the contributions reached the grand sum of $2,000—an increase of two thousand dollars over the previous year.

Besides inducting the vanguard of a crusade against the liquor sellers, another startling and radical advance was made towards honoring the fair sex. Ladies were placed upon the Visiting Committees to the various Evangelical institutions under the patronage of the Conference. Formerly none but ministers were selected to this service; then women were associated with ministers, and now ladies are added. This is the right kind of a "Woman's Rights" movement.

Rev. Dr. C. A. Holmes, late pastor of the North avenue church, Allegheny city, long an honored member of this Conference, as his father was before him, was transferred to the Central Pennsylvania Conference, and stationed at the elegant Grace church, Harrisburg, Pa. When the fact was announced in open Conference, Dr. Holmes attempted to speak of the tender associations which had bound him to the Conference, but his feelings completely overpowered him. His brethren and associates acted as eloquently, as the most burning rhetoric, his record for his associates, for expressions of regret at his leaving, and assuring him of a hearty welcome, should he return to the body, were unanimously adopted by a standing vote.

Rev. H. Kensbaugh, who had been compelled to spend last winter in Colorado for his health, decided to rest for the coming year, having finished his four years term in the East Pittsburgh District as Presiding Elder, and to recruit his health in Denver, Colorado. During his absence part of last year, the preachers in the district, and others, supplied his place, his salary going to maintain the family. Before Conference adjourned the preachers of the district, and other visiting ministers, and convened at his residence (Blairsville) and presented him with between one and two hundred dollars as a token of respect for the occasion and one of tender interest. We note in this connection, that Mr. Kensbaugh has been quite successful in the ministery. During his four years term in the district, the work has prospered in every department. Fifteen churches were built and several parsonages either purchased or erected. Nine parsonages in the district. Salaries of ministers greatly increased. Nineteen hundred persons received on probation.

Among the delightful places where the ministers and visitors to the Conference were entertained, was at the Blairsville Ladies' Seminary. It was the home of the ministers connected with educational institutions: Rev. Dr. Dowling, President of Pittsburgh Female College, Rev. Dr. Taylor, President of Beaver College and President Harbison's of Mount Union College. This admirable institution is under the Presidency of Rev. J. Jewett Parks A. M., who has had charge of it for many years. The Professor and his accomplished wife are admirably suited for the delicate duties of managing such an institution. The delightful scenery surrounding the commodious buildings, make it a delightful place to educate young ladies. The attendance of pupils is good and the institution has enjoyed unusual prosperity. President Parks is a gentleman and Christian, and the Institution receives a liberal patronage. It is evidently rising in public esteem.

J. McC. Creighton, Esq., the late popular General Agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, now the efficient Superintendent of the West Pennsylvania Road, has his headquarters at Blairsville. Mac is as genial and accommodating as ever, to good fellows of the editorial fraternity, as one of them can testify during a late visit to that town.

The Counterfeit Fifty Cent Note.

We learn from our exchanges that the new issue of fifty cent notes bearing the v gnette of Samuel Dexter, Secretary of the Treasury 1801 is extensively counterfeited in the East. Some of them have already appeared here, and it seems surprising that so bad a counterfeit should find any circulation whatever, but for knowledge of the fact that many people never scrutinize small changed given them. The counterfeit ought not to deceive any but the most ignorant persons. It is a mean engraving in every way. Vignette of Secretary Dexter is very poorly executed, and bears but little resemblance to the portrait on the genuine note. The paper of the counterfeit is tough and thick like that of the good note, but is without the colored threads of which seem like hairs worked into the body of the paper, and for which there a secret process exclusively by with the government. Sundry green lines across the back of the counterfeit note seem to recognize this deficiency in the spurious paper and proclaim the cheat.

Alexander H. Stephens is improving in health, and is expected to resume his seat in the House of Representatives soon.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL SESSION.

Ministerial Appointments for the Year—Full List of Names and Stations—Alliance, Ohio, the Place of Next Meeting.

The Pittsburgh Methodist Episcopal Conference closed its annual session Tuesday morning at Blairsville, Pa., when the announcement of ministerial appointments for the ensuing year was made. Before the adjournment quite a contest was had as to where the next annual conference should meet. Alliance, Canton and New Philadelphia, Ohio, were each put in nomination, and Alliance was chosen. Following is the list of appointments:

EAST PITTSBURGH DISTRICT.

S. F. Minor, Presiding Elder.
Pittsburgh: Liberty street—R. T. Miller.
Pittsburgh: Sixth Avenue—R. Morrow.
Pittsburgh: Main street—J. L. Deems.
Mansfield—N. G. Miller.
Quarries—S. B. Cravens.
Knowlson's—S. B. Eaton.
Washington—H. L. Chapman.
Nottestown and Fayette—J. E. Wright.
Florence—E. R. Jones and E. M. Taylor.
Georgetown—T. F. Watkins.
Wellsburgh—J. Gledhill.
Frankfort—J. F. Bredin.
Canonsburgh—W. F. Conner.
Independence—G. B. Hudson.
Cokeyville—C. M. Westlake.
Peters Creek—M. M Sweeney.
Pine Run—E. B. Graham.
Mt. Washington—E. J. Smith.
Allentown—to be supplied.
Phillipsburg—J. W. Gibson.
Shoneetown—to be supplied.
Missionary to Bulgaria—A. L. Long.
Missionary to Japan—M. C. Harris.
M. S. Kendig—Secretary Church Extension Society, Member Mt. Washington Quarterly Conference.

SOUTH PITTSBURGH DISTRICT.

Hiram Miller, Presiding Elder.
Pittsburgh: Wesley Chapel—M. W. Dallas.
Pittsburgh: Trinity—W. P. Turner.
Pittsburgh: Carson street—R. Andrew.
Pittsburgh: Bingham street—L. McGuire.
Pittsburgh: Walnut Church—M. B. Pugh.
Salem and Franklin—J. W. Kessler.
Wilkinsburgh—T. M. McGrew.
Jeanette and Blackburn—[illegible] W. Swift.
Freedom—C. H. Edwards.
New Galilee—W. Rehgiter.
Unionville and Concord—J. Ross.
Beaver—W. Lynch.
Bridgewater—T. D. Dempsey.
Rochester—T. S. Hodgson.
New Brighton—A. M. Wood.
Beaver Falls—T. Finley.
Enon Valley—J. G. Gogley.
Leetonia—A. Coll.
Franklin Square—R. Jordan.
Youngstown—J. Hays.
Salem—T. N. Boyle.
C. Thorn, Agent Pennsylvania Bible Society, and member of Sewickley Quarterly Conference; R. T. Taylor, President Beaver Seminary.

CANTON DISTRICT.

W. Cox, Presiding Elder.
Canton, First Church—C. W. Smith.
Canton, Second Church—G. A. Lowman.
Massillon—J. M. Carr.
Greentown—W. Stewart.
Marlboro—A. E. Ward.
Alliance—W. H. Locke.
Mt. Union—W. Brown.
Damascoville—A. J. Lane.
New Lisbon—W. V. Kennedy.
Elkton—Winnett Bedall.
Hanoverton—M. Shuey.
Salineville—G. W. Jackson.
Carrollton—W. L. Dixon.
Minerva—G. B. Heathern.
Mechanicstown—J. A. Hunter.
Malvern—J. D. Legget.
Waynesburg—J. B. Hollister.
Sandyville—J. W. McAbee.
New Cumberland—F. J. Swaney.
Philadelphia Plains—J. R. Cooper.
Franklin—W. K. Brown.
On Harlsboro'—President Mount Union College, W. Hunter, editor of the "Pittsburgh Christian Advocate."

STEUBENVILLE DISTRICT.

J. Williams, Presiding Elder.
Steubenville—Kramer, J. S. Bracken.
Steubenville—Hamlin, J. W. Lasser.
Steubenville—Thomson, D. H. Stewart.
Steubenville—Finley, S. K. Keyes.
Wellsville—R. Hollingshead.
Liverpool—E. Hingeley.
Rio Grande—R. C. Kelley.
Richmond—C. C. Nelson.
Harlem—J. Nelson.
Winterville—D. K. Stevenson.
Smithfield—T. Storer.
Bloomfield—O. S. Bachtle.
New Somerset—G. W. Dean.
Leesburg—A. Scott.
New Market—J. Stephens.
Lewistwille—J. M. Bray.
Hammondsville—W. Symth.
East Springfield—I. S. Winters.
Smithfield—D. N. Stafford.
Unionport—W. D. Stanley.
Sloska—J. R. Rider.
R. S. Hogue, Professor New Market College.

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT.

A. L. Petty, Presiding Elder.
Cambridge—J. H. Conkle.
New Philadelphia—I. A. Pearce.
Coshocton—B. F Bearzell.
Canal—R. Norcross.
Asbury—I. K. Rader, J. Drummond.
Martin's Ferry—H. B. Edwards.
Richmville—J. Cross.
Gradenhutten—W. Peregory.
Winchester—N. B. Stewart.
Washington—J. J. Felt.
Adamsville—J. W. Toland.
East Plainfield—L. V. Galbraith.
Milnersville—J. W. Weaver.
Liberty—I. N. McCabee.
Hopedale—T. W. Anderson.
Tippecanoe—N. Lincock.
Bethel—J. E Stafford.
New Athens—H. H. Doan.
Warrenton—J. T. Charlton.
West Wheeling—J. A. Miller.
Bethel—T. S. Lincock.
B. E. Rogers—Missionary to China.

BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT.

S. Burt, Presiding Elder.
Barnesville—J. A. Swasey.
Bridgeport—T. McCluskey.
Bellaire—J. H. Rodgers.
St. Clairsville—E. D. Vail.
Harrisville—G. D. Edmonds.
Morristown—J. A. Wright.
Somerton—S. Robb.
Woodsfield—H. J. Smith.
Somerton—M. J. Ingram.
Barnesville—B. H. Pershing.
Hendrysburg—D. Rhodes.
Bealsville—To be supplied.
Hannibal—R. M. Freshwater.
Clarington—J. Shaw.
Centerville—I. S. King.
Bellaire—G. A. Sheets.
Moorfield—J. Wright.
Freeport—J. Hill.
Powhattan—J. I. Wilson.
Antioch—W. Gandy.

MCCONNELLSVILLE DISTRICT.

S. M. Hickman, Presiding Elder.
McConnellsville—A. R. Chapman.
Beverly—W. H. Piggott.
Unionville—W. S. Cummings.
St. Clair—Worthington.
Morgan—R. S. Strahl.
Rich Hill—J. Ponts.
Bethel—W. R. Earcus.
Sonora—E. B. Webster.
Duncan's Falls—D. Gordon.
Newcastle—G. G. Watters, J. W. Robins.
Quaker City—M. R. Grimes.
Summerfield—M. Hadley.
Freedom—J. C. Russell.
Stafford—L. Timberlake.
Caldwell—D. C. Knowles.
Macksburg—A. D. McCormick.
Salem—S. P. Marsh.
Lebanon—W. N. Webster.
Newport—F. D. Fast.
Browningsville—W. F. Smith.
C. A. Holmes, transferred and stationed at Harrisburg.
D. A. Pierce, stationed at Independence, Mo.

A Waif.

A Babe Abandoned.

Near nine o'clock Wednesday evening, a colored lad named David James, while passing along Rose street, near Hand street, observed a carpet-sack lying upon a door step. He called the attention of a gentleman to it, and they investigated the matter. To their astonishment they found in the sack a little girl baby. Mrs. Laura Gangwisch came along, and thinking that the people of the house had ordered that it be thrown upon the street, kindly volunteered to care for it until the guardians of the poor should provide for the little stranger. Mrs. G. lives on Cherry alley, between Third and Fourth avenues. She says the child appears to be about three weeks old, and that it has been wanting proper care. Attached to the bundle of clothing around it was a small piece of paper, upon which was written, "Lena B.—"

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 25, 1874.

Now that the statement of the national banks has been called for by the Comptroller of the Currency, there is a more liberal disposition shown on the part of these institutions to accommodate the business public. Commercial paper has moved to-day quite freely, and discounts have been liberally made at the banks. Those banks that are affected by the currency shipments to the interior are not able to respond as promptly to the demands of home depositors as those banks which do an exclusively city business.

Rates remain unchanged and exchange continues heavy.

—Much interest centers in the action which the Senate takes in the bill last introduced by Mr. Sherman from the Finance Committee, which was referred to in our dispatches a few days since.

This bill provides for an interchangable gold five per cent. bond, redeemable after January 1, 1876, whereby the present demand obligations of the government, in the denomination of $1,000 or its multiple, may be converted and made payable in gold at any time. This appears to create specie resumption.

The next clause of the bill provides that there shall be free banking, and for every million of circulation so introduced there shall be a retirement of seventy per cent. of the greenbacks until there shall be a reduction to the standard of $300,000,000 of the circulation. No further reduction beyond that limit shall be made, but free banking shall still go on. The next clause fixes the circulation of legal tenders at $382,000,000. The vote on the bill in committee stood five against two; but there will be no minority report, inasmuch as the free banking feature is acknowledged as a concession to those in favor of increased circulation.

Senator Sherman expresses the opinion that a vote will be reached this week. There will undoubtedly be many speeches upon it, more especially from the specie resumption Senator who voted against the amendment of Senator Cameron, offered in the Senate, which in effect contemplated free banking, but was rejected on February 20 by a vote of 32 to 28.

The present approval of that measure in the bill of the Finance Committee is regarded as a great triumph by those in favor of more circulation.

The action of Congress on the currency question is awaited with much impatience, for it is felt that upon this action the future of business must very largely depend. On the one side is the South and West demanding more currency, based upon an inadequate supply of circulation for the business of those sections. On the other side is the East, which is largely the creditor of the other sections, and which therefore fears a depreciation of the currency. The peculiarities of the situations in business halls will largely account for this difference of opinion.

The former have a widely scattered population with few banking facilities, and whose transactions are small in amount, so they desire an increase of banking facilities rather than an increase of currency, for with the increased number of banks would come a greater use of the bank check, which in the aggregate performs ten times the work that the currency does. In the East, banks are numerous and all the means of economizing in the use of currency and bank checks and drafts perform the functions of money and the large wholesale operations of business are conducted entirely without the use of a dollar of cash. This use of commercial and bank credits gives a local elasticity to the currency which is beyond the reach of the West from the mergeness of their banking facilities.

To reconcile the extremes of opinion from the rigid contractionist to the wild inflationist is the task before Congress, and one which is not easy of satisfactory settlement; from present appearances, however, hope is soon to have some action more satisfactory than the reigning inaction of the past few months.

—The following syllabus is reported of a decision of the United States Supreme Court at Washington on the 24th and in the case of Nugent vs. Supervisors of Putnam county, error to the Circuit Court for the Northern district of Illinois:

The county issued bonds in aid of the Kankakee and Illinois River Railroad Company, but before they were delivered that road was consolidated with another, which latter company issued none of its bonds in the market for value, and payment being refused, this action was brought to recover. The court below held the bonds to be void, therefore, because before their delivery the road to which they were issued had become merged in the other corporation. That judgment is here reversed, the court holding that the plaintiff being a bona fide holder without notice, as he is found to be, the fact that he was not bound to inquire further than to ascertain if the bonds were issued by the proper officers, after the law had been approved by a popular vote; nor did it make any difference that the road had been consolidated.

Mr. Justice Strong delivered the opinion. Dissenting Justices, Davis and Miller.

Reeves vs. City of Watertown, Wis. Appeal from the Circuit Court for the Western district of Wisconsin. These obligations had no validity against the city. Afterwards he sought a mandamus to enforce a levy for payment, but the Common Council and Aldermen resigned, and several subsequent writs were defeated by the evasive conduct of the corporation officers. This action was then brought to compel subject the taxable property of the city to the payment of the bonds. The court below dismissed the bill, holding that the laws of this its prayer could not be enforced in equity. Hereby decree is here affirmed, the court holding that where the remedy at law is adequate and complete, as in this case, the fact that its execution is frustrated by violence or crime, are not entitle the party to the extraordinary aid of a Court of Chancery.

Mr. Justice Hunt delivered the opinion. Justices Clifford and Swayne dissented, asserting that a court of equity will not interfere to defeat the collection in the fund; and because of the effect of the decree of the Circuit Court affirmed here, will be to give judicial sanction to a fraudulent repudiation of an honest debt.

—Messrs. Henry Clews & Co. have commenced again to issue their monthly circular letter, which was discontinued at the time of their suspension last fall. In their letter for March they say:

In returning to the issue of our usual monthly letter of information to our friends, we regret to be unable to report a condition of affairs which can be regarded as satisfactory. Perhaps, at no period since the close of the war, has there been such a general complication of the affairs of trade and of quiet in the financial markets. It is not impossible that the depression may be more severe in the city than at other points, and efforts to the late panic have been more deeply felt here than elsewhere, and there are certain local causes which are operating at the present time to the disadvantage of New York trade, and equally benefiting the business of other commercial centers; but, nevertheless, the inactivity of trade seems to be common to all sections of the country.

This state of things was hardly expected, for the sound condition of business at the outbreak of the panic and the rapid apparent recovery from the derangements of the crisis created a hope that the spring trade would show but little of the effects of the fall catastrophe. Experience has demonstrated that this expectation was too sanguine. Much as it may be a matter of congratulation that bankruptcy was not more common and that men of business were able to offer such a stout resistance to the severe strain to which the panic exposed them, yet we now have evidence that the resistance involved a considerable loss of vitality, and that the recovery was less complete than has been supposed.

A natural disposition on the part of businesses to be settled; still a disposition to curtail credits to the weaker class of firms until they have proved a period of probation, and demonstrated that they were not vitally injured; there is a general prostration of many branches of business dependent upon railroad construction, and a large amount of labor unemployed which a few months ago was actively engaged in connection with such enterprises; and, still more important, there is a general economy in private and public expenditures, which lessens the demand for a wide class of products. Superadded to these causes of depression, the basis of values is kept unsettled by the uncertainty as to what may be the character of the financial measures to be adopted by Congress. Whether the prevailing dullness is to be attributed to the latter cause to the extent that it is very great is perhaps open to question, but there can be no reasonable doubt that it contributes very seriously to keep confidence unsettled and to prevent the employment of capital in investments existing into the future.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

March 25, 1874.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	112	112½	112⅝	112⅝	112⅝	112⅝
U. S. 6s, 1881 coupons	119⅜	———	119⅜	———	119⅜	———
U. S. 6s, 1881 registered	118⅜	———	118⅜	———	118⅜	———
5-20's, 1865	119⅝	———	119⅝	———	119⅝	———
5-20's, 1865, new	119⅝	———	119⅝	———	119⅝	———
5-20's, 1867	119⅝	———	119⅝	———	119⅝	———
5-20's, 1868	119⅝	———	119⅝	———	119⅝	———
10-40's	114⅝	———	114⅝	———	114⅝	———
10-40's, coupons	114⅝	———	114⅝	———	114⅝	———
Currency 6's, 1881	115	———	115	———	115	———
Old U. S. C. stock	91	———	91	———	91	———
Union Pacific	———	———	———	———	———	———
Western Union Tele'ph	85¾	86¼	86¼	86¼	86¼	86¼
Illinois Central	———	———	———	———	———	———
Do. Preferred	———	———	———	———	———	———
Pacific Mail	45¾	46⅛	45⅞	46	46	46⅛
Adams Express	———	97	———	97	———	97½
Wells Fargo Express	———	96	———	96½	———	96½
American Express	———	64	———	64¼	———	64
United States Express	———	78	———	78	———	78
New York Central	103⅝	103	103½	103	103	103
Erie	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾
Michigan Central	———	93	———	93	———	93
Michigan Southern	88⅝	88⅝	88⅝	88⅝	88⅝	88⅝
Merchants' Union Ex.	———	18	———	18	———	18
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	———	104	———	104	———	104
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	———	98¾	———	98¾	———	98¾
Chicago & Northwestern	72¾	73	72¾	73	72¾	73
Do. Preferred	82¾	83	82¾	83	82¾	83
Rock Island	———	103½	———	103½	———	103½
Fort Wayne	43¾	43¾	43¾	44	44	44
Ohio and Mississippi	———	30	———	30	———	30
Union Pacific	———	95¾	———	95¾	———	95¾
Chicago and Alton	———	103½	———	103½	———	103½
Terre Haute	———	8	———	8	———	8
R. H. & F.	———	———	———	———	———	———
Hudson	———	124	124	124	124	124
Atlantic and Pacific pf	———	———	———	105¾	———	105¾
Tennessee state stock	———	60	———	60	———	60
Do. new	———	———	———	50½	———	50½
South Carolina, April	———	———	———	69	———	69
Do. July	———	———	———	———	———	———
Missouri 6's	———	———	———	———	———	———

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	53½
Penna. Scrip	93¾
Reading	58
United Co.'s New Jersey	121
Oil Creek	17
Lehigh Valley	61¾
A. V. R. R. 1-30	91
Central Transportation	46
Empire Transportation	58
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis 7-30s	66¾
Allegheny Company, 5s	76

New Orleans Market.

NEW ORLEANS, March 25.—Flour dull; X $5 75; XXX $6 25a7 00; family $8 00. Corn in fair supply and demand; white mixed 75c; yellow 78a80c; prime to choice 76c; yellow 79a80c; oats quiet at 62c. Bran in warehouse $1. Hay dull; prime $18; choice $21. Pork in fair demand at $16 75. Dry salt meats scarce and firm at 9½c. Bacon scarce and firm at 10½a11c. Hams dull at 11¾a12c. Lard firm; tierce 9¾a9¾c; keg 10¾a11c. Sugar—light receipts and market dull; common 6a6¾c; fair to good fair 6¾a7¾c. Molasses scarce; fermenting 45c. Whisky quiet; Louisiana 94c; Cincinnati $1. Coffee unchanged. Cornmeal quiet at $3 50a3 60.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,
WEDNESDAY, March 25, 1874.

REMARKS.—The late cold, blustery weather has abated, and Spring seems to have again returned. May it stay with us this time.

The rivers are still in excellent navigable order, and business on the wharves presents an animated appearance.

There is little or no change in rates or leading articles. There seems to be a better feeling, however, and business men are more hopeful for the future.

The late action of the Lower House of Congress on the currency question gives hope that some thing will be done ere long of a definite character. And the sooner this action is had the better.

The vegetable and produce markets are fully supplied. Indeed, commission men are handling almost everything in their line.

The flour and grain markets present no new features worthy of particular attention. Holders do not seem anxious to press sales at present rates, believing that better prices will rule ere many days. We shall make a note of the fact when it occurs.

But why extend our remarks? The truth of the matter is the markets are not what they should be this season of the year; but all the circumstances taken into consideration, they are as good as could be expected.

Below we give the receipts of produce by rail and river for the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls	230	Apples, bbls	40
Corn, sks	977	Wheat, sks	170
Barley, sks	20	Rye, sks	137
Oats, sks	700	Butter, pkgs	112
Bacon, pcs	1,715	Potatoes, bbls	75

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received by rail and river during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total
Flour, bbls	10,705	10,287	21,052
Apples, bbls	417	410	827
Cheese, lbs	———	———	25
Corn, sks	3,067	4,327	7,394
Wheat, sks	2,726	1,398	4,124
Barley, sks	4,940	2,582	7,522
Rye, sks	635	525	1,160
Oats, sks	6,024	1,926	16,960
Butter, pkgs	385	279	664
Bacon, lbs	5,945	5,250	11,195
Bacon, pcs	501	116	617

Below will be found the wholesale prices of the market, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES.—The market shows no signs of change in prices per bbl., as follows: Sweets, $5@6; Baldwins, common, $3@4; fancy, $5@6; Greenings, common, $3@4; fancy, $5@6; Russets, common, $3@4; fancy, $5@6; Spitzenburgs, common, $3@4; fancy, $5@6; Romanites, common, $3@4; fancy, $5@6; Pippins, common, $3@4; fancy, $5@6; Seeks

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 28th, July 18th and September 26th 1872, and March 1st, 1873.

THE full effects of the deficient European crops are now just beginning to be felt. From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston there is a constant shipment going on, and this, in consequence of the failure of the customary sources of supply on the continent, will necessarily continue until the incoming of the new harvest.

THE law of 1851, regulating the liability of ship owners for merchandise destroyed or lost at sea while in shipment, is to be amended so that vessels of inland waters will be embraced. River steamboat men are not now liable to the same extent as owners of ocean vessels. This is a matter of very considerable importance to an extended and powerful interest.

THE New York *World* gives formal notice to all whom it may concern that the Democratic party, of which it is the principal organ, will hereafter have nothing whatever to do with Liberals or Protectionists. It proposes to make a square, old-fashioned Bourbon and free trade fight. Is the Pittsburgh *Post* with it in the latter feature of the programme?

THE Supreme Court of the United States, by a recent decision, holds that the interpretation of a State law by the court of last resort in the State, becomes as much a part of the statute as if incorporated into the body of it; and directs that it is the construction of the statutes of a State, and especially those affecting titles to real property, where no Federal question arises, the Federal courts follow the adjudications of the highest tribunal of the State.

NOT only on the Delaware and down in Maine is there a marked revival of our shipbuilding industries—in numerous other parts of the country the same encouraging fact is visible. At various points along the Sound coast of Long Island the yards are all busy; at Boston the yards are more active than for many years, while several of the lake ports tell a similar story of creative energy and enterprise in this direction. The maritime interests of the country are everywhere being rehabilitated at a prosperous and steady rate.

UNLESS the skull of a man be exceptionally thick, he is pretty apt, sooner or later, to grow tired of the pastime of butting his head against the decrees of Fate. Another Southern Bourbon has just signified that he has had his fill of this kind of unprofitable amusement. Mr. BARKSDALE, one of the proprietors of the JACKSON (Miss.) *Clarion*, long the leading Democratic paper in that State, has lately joined the Republican Club in Jackson, his "definition" receiving the hearty approval of his colleague, Mr. LAMAR, of the *Clarion*, who has long exercised a controlling influence in the politics of Mississippi—from which it is to be inferred that the parent will presently follow the example of the son. A general blast of denunciation from the organs of the faithful is now in order.

IN his speech at the funeral ceremonies of Senator SUMNER, in Boston, the other day, Hon. R. H. DANA stated that the political "party of Freedom" was first organized in 1848, and that it was in the law chamber of CHARLES SUMNER, in that city, that the anti-slavery cause, "passing out of the region of mere moral effort, shaped itself into a movement of practical politics." This is a mistake. Senator SUMNER did not originate political action against slavery. As hard, if not harder, political work against the "peculiar institution" had been done before 1848 than was ever done after, and some of it by men who are still alive, as, for instance, JOHN G. WHITTIER and SAMUEL E. SEWALL. The Free Soil party of 1848 was as much the child of the Liberty party of 1840 and 1844, as the Republican party of the last fifteen years was the child of the Free Soil party.

DULL as trade has been since the beginning of the present year, the exports of the staple products of the country have yet been in excess of the corresponding period for last year. The exports from New York for foreign ports for the week ending March 17 were—exclusive of specie—$4,701,438, against $4,063,273 for the corresponding week of 1873, and $3,845,963, for that of the year before. The total exports of the United States from Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore for January and February of the present year, amounted to $58,822,930, against $52,896,349 for the same months of 1873, and $47,151,100 for those of 1872, an average increase over last year of nearly six and a half millions, or over twelve per cent., while for the two years it is eleven and a half millions, or nearly twenty-five per cent.—the increase in Philadelphia being nearly sixty per cent.

Now, this is too bad. Just in the very moment when the St. Louisians had convinced themselves that they had convinced the wheat-handlers of England that the Mississippi river is the cheapest thoroughfare for which to get the grain of the Upper Mississippi Valley, they are threatened with a loss of their rail connection with Iowa, Minnesota and the whole Northwest. The sole means upon which they rely for obtaining spring wheat from Iowa and Minnesota during the months of winter is the Central Iowa Railroad, and there is now a strong probability that this important thoroughfare will fall into the hands of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad for all time to come—merely on account of their want of ordinary prudence and foresight in this respect in home affairs. What's the Mississippi river to St. Louis, if she don't know how to control it to her own advantage?

THE workings of the co-operative principle are being practically tested in the thrifty manufacturing town of Fall River, Massachusetts, with marked success. There is a co-operative store there for the sale of groceries, provisions, boots and shoes, doing a cash business of $60,000 per year. They have paid to members as profits, during six years, $29,760 84. They now own their stores and are in a very flourishing condition. In addition to this, there are twenty-one dividing stores, dividing $30,000 worth per month, at a cost of 31 per cent. and a profit of 20 per cent. on purchases, a saving of $72,000 a year to the families engaged in them. Quite a large amount of stock of corporations is owned by operatives, and several hundred thousand dollars stand to their credit in savings banks, besides a larger amount in real estate. There does not appear to be any reason why the same principle, put into operation by the working classes of Pittsburgh, should not result as advantageously to themselves as it has done to their fellow New England workers.

THE Comptroller of the Treasury has just completed the report of the banks of the United States for the 26th of December, 1873: from which it appears that the number of banks was increased during the year to 1,976, against 1,940 in 1872, 1,760 in 1871, 1,618 in 1870 and 1,617 in 1869, and that the capital has increased from 426 millions in 1869 to 490 millions at present. The deposits have risen from 311 millions in 1869 to 640 millions in 1873. They were 593 millions in 1872. The decline this year is attributed to well known causes arising chiefly out of the panic, and indicating a wholesome check to undue inflation of credit. The deposits with redeeming agents were reported at 93 millions at the outbreak of the panic in September, and at only 73 millions on the 26th of December, the depletion of 23 millions having taken place by a very brief and violent drain. The loans were reported at $941,200,000 in September, and at the beginning of November they had sunk to $777,000,000, the whole loaning power of the banks having thus been diminished $186,600,000.

THE latest financial proposition is the establishment of a redeeming agency for the banks, joining the public credit to private fortunes, and embracing the operations of the Treasury and national banks under one redeeming authority, by taking the statements of the Treasury and the exhibit of the banks and directing the whole under one central head. The plan is to gather the gold into a common hoard and settle foreign balances in this way, instead of carting it from the mines to the ship's side. The control is to be delegated to three persons authorized by the banks, three from the business interests, and the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House and of the Finance of the Senate, who shall form a corporate body to have succession for a term of seven years, charged with the duty of bringing nations' credit and private means to the specie standard. Such a scheme looks pretty enough on paper, but it is neither more nor less impracticable than a thousand other financial theories which have, from time to time, been promulgated—and forgotten.

THERE is a very general disposition to blame the currency agitation as the only cause of the present depression of trade, nor is there any doubt that it has been one of the prime agents in prolonging the recent inaction and quietude. The *Financial Chronicle*, however, considers that the complaints which reach us from Europe of similar depressions indicate the existence of a number of ancillary causes. For example, the *Chronicle* shows that in Germany the railways are suffering heavily from the increase in their working expenses, which is one of the results of that *embarras de richesses* which has effected such an economic revolution in Germany since the war with France. The depression of Stock Exchange values at Berlin has been very considerable, ranging from twenty to sixty per cent., and averaging upwards of twenty-five. In England, too, there is a similar complaint of business languor, almost all prices having more or less declined to a considerable degree, while in France and Belgium, also, a like stagnant condition of affairs obtains. It is impossible to attribute so general a decline in these countries to any other than general causes, and hence, whilst we think there is no doubt that the failure of Congress to act promptly on the financial question is one of the chief causes of the present business dullness here, it is pretty evident that there are other predisposing forces at work, also.

COMMERCIAL CENTERS.

New York has hitherto calmly regarded herself as not only the commercial center of the nation, but as being so firmly enthroned as such as to be impregnable to assault. She has gloried in her fancied strength, and laid the flattering unction to her soul that the evil days would never come to her. She would sit enthroned as queen, and all other cities should do homage to her. Philadelphia was, in her eyes, a staid, slow, lethargic village, and Boston a prim and egotistic hamlet, living on old traditions and glorying in provincial littleness. No words of contempt were ever strong enough to express her feeling towards those places, and the idea that they were ever likely to become rivals was too ridiculous to be entertained.

Of late, however, a slight change has come over the spirit of her dream. Boston is growing more rapidly than New York; so are Philadelphia and Baltimore; and the current of the grain trade of the West seems to be taking a sheer away from New York towards Montreal. The figures which have heralded these unwelcome facts to New York eyes have been a revelation. The New York financier is beginning to ponder over them. That city is still the commercial center of the country; but how long is she to remain such? Daily developments indicate it cannot be long. She will always, it is to be supposed, remain a great and flourishing city; but she will not monopolize the business of the nation, as heretofore. For the following facts we are indebted to the Philadelphia *North American*:

"Eighteen years ago Montreal had but four steamships, and now she has fifty-two. Still later the Cunard Company announced their purpose of taking away from Boston the last foreign steamships, and now, through Boston and Portland and Boston, on the North, are the natural markets of the West. The brisk competition of a dozen cities for this traffic is far better for the producers than the stagnation of a monopoly; and the whole country is bound to prosper and go ahead when trade is diffused to all its parts, and capital is kept legitimately employed, instead of being swallowed up in stock gambling and commercial speculation.

MOIETIES.

The examination made at Washington by the Committee of Ways and Means, into the operation of the system of Moieties as reward for the detection of frauds on the revenue, has developed two facts of considerable importance.

The first of these is that the persistent outcry against the system which has gone up from a portion of the importing trade of New York is not so much directed against the method of rewarding those who detect frauds, as it is against the detection of frauds, at all. The importunities made to the system given up, became it well nigh rendered fraud impossible. It is against the severity of the Customs laws they complain. They find fault with the restrictions against fraudulent invoices, and particularly with that provision which forfeits the whole invoice for fraud in a part of it. They do not relish a wholesome restriction upon frauds by importers. It cripples their operations and curtails their profits if the duty on iron and steel is twenty per cent. *ad valorem*, and the value upon which the twenty per cent. is to be levied is the value fixed in the invoice at the place of export, why should they be compelled to put in the *true* invoice, and restrained from substituting another, at less figures, on which the duties would not be so much? No one loses but Uncle Sam; and what he loses is clear gain to the importer. It is against the severity of these laws the protest has gone up, but it has been veiled by attacking, in its stead, the moieties system. So long as the informers get half the forfeiture for detecting the fraud, just so long will frauds be detected and exposed. Abolish the moieties, and fraud may be more easy.

The second fact developed is, that the fines and forfeitures for fraud are so heavy that customs officers have been tempted thereby either to wink at fraud for the sake of obtaining the reward for detecting it, or to trump up charges of fraud in the hope that the victims will bleed rather than bear the risk of being arraigned. There can be no doubt that the temptation to the rewards, at a point of such magnitude of the rewards, at a point of such large importations as New York, has stimulated the greed and the worst passions of the customs officers, and no injustice has been done in several instances.

Still, it is not the principal importers who complain. The men who make it a point to do business honestly and fairly, do not find fault with the severity of the Customs laws. They insist, rather, that the laws are not too severe, and that if they are relaxed in the least, dishonest or unscrupulous importers will be able, by underselling, to drive the honest importers out of the market. The tribute thus paid to the efficiency of the laws, as they stand, is a rare and valuable one. Congress will learn from it, we hope, that it will never do to yield to the clamor of interested men, and open to them the way for an easy evasion of the Revenue laws.

The heavy fines and forfeitures should be so remodeled as to remove from the officers of the customs any temptation to connive at fraud or to levy black-mail; but while removing this temptation, let Congress beware of thereby putting temptations in the way of importers whose consciences are easy when no one but the government is to be cheated. It is just as necessary that the importers should be kept honest as that the customs officers should be. The experience of over three-quarters of a century at the Custom House has demonstrated that a great many men who deal with the government in the way of paying duties, are possessed of a very easy virtue. Undervaluation, where duties are charged *ad valorem*, is a very common method with them, the end justifying the means in their estimation, and no government can save itself from imposition without great watchfulness, not only on this score, but on the part of its officers. Or without exercising both firmness and severity in the execution of the laws. We are content to see the Moieties system so far modified as to prove less stimulating to the cupidity and greed of the customs officers, but not so as to stimulate the cupidity of the importers. The quarrel among the New York officers as to a division of the spoils, which probably brought on this investigation, is an evidence of the necessity for the first modification, and the testimony of the largest importers of New York and of the country that the laws are none too severe for honest men, is proof against the policy of relaxing them.

TAXATION IN PENNSYLVANIA AS COMPARED WITH OTHER STATES.

There is a frequent outcry in Pennsylvania about taxation for State purposes, as if it were excessive; but a comparison of the annual receipts of the State with other States, will show that our burdens are comparatively light. We have before us, for the moment, the annual accounts of New York and Massachusetts—two prosperous and wealthy Common wealths. Massachusetts has a population less than half that of Pennsylvania, being 1,450 000 to 3,540,000 in Pennsylvania, and to 4 350 000 in New York; yet Massachusetts, with less than half our population, raises double the amount of our taxes, and New York, with a population not much larger than ours, raises nearly three times as much revenue for State purposes. The revenue of the three States named, for 1873, was as follows:

Pennsylvania	$ 7,076,743
Massachusetts	11,894,918
New York, exclusive of canal funds	18,350,240

The estimated revenue for this State, for 1874, is $6,000,000; so that the Massachusetts total last year was double what that of Pennsylvania will be for the current year, and that of New York more than three times as large for the current year; and it takes as much, it will be seen, to govern New York as it does to govern both Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

The sources of revenue in Pennsylvania were as follows:

Tax on bank stocks	$ 288,148
Tax on corporation stocks	1,410,647
Tax on personal property	1,811,867
Tax on banks	688,394
Tax on net earnings or income	445,286
Tax on gross receipts	791,776
Tax on tonnage	885,570
Tax on coal	346,364
Tax on collateral inheritances	327,915
Tax on foreign insurance companies	383,429
Tax on offices	834,027
Miscellaneous	66,468
Total	$7,076,743

Separated into classes, these figures run thus:

Tax on home corporations other than banks	$1,072,727
Tax on banks	288,148
Tax on foreign corporations	383,429
Taxes on the people generally	2,364,358

The home corporations, therefore, paid fourseventhsof the State revenue.

In Massachusetts, the sources of revenue may thus be classified:

Tax on personal estate	$2,964,602
Tax on national bank shares	1,019,650
Tax on insurance companies	293,432
Tax on savings banks	1,140,000
Tax on corporations, based on their property	1,318,870
Miscellaneous	543,883
Funds and loans	5,613,574
Total	$11,894,918

The tax on national banks, it will be seen, is nearly four times as large as in this State, and the tax on deposits in savings banks, a very heavy one, is one not felt by our people at all.

In New York, the sources of revenue are different, and are summed up thus:

State taxes	$13,051,078
Miscellaneous	687,787
Sundry fund accounts	3,813,375
Total	$18,550,240

New York, as would thus appear, raises the great bulk of her revenue by direct taxation. Her corporations pay no taxes on their franchises; but, as in Massachusetts, they are taxed on their property, direct, and must be taxed as heavily, in that way, as ours are in a different way, if not more heavily. The difference in the annual statements made by the State Treasurers of New York and Massachusetts, is that the latter gives, separately, the amount levied on corporation property, and the other does not. We are hence unable to say what proportion of the taxes is borne by corporations in New York; but we have no doubt they pay their full share.

The comparison, we take it, is extremely favorable to Pennsylvania. The balance in the New York State Treasury January 1, 1874, was $6 145,997—only half a million less than the entire revenue of our State for the whole of last year, and fully half a million *more* than he estimated revenue for 1874. The entire taxation of our State for the current year, for State purposes, will not, therefore, reach what was simply left over in New York, in the Treasurer's hands at the time of the annual settlement.

And yet, small as our aggregate revenue is, compared with these States, our financial condition, as a Commonwealth, is decidedly the best. The State debt of New York is increasing, so far as we are able to judge; most certainly it is not decreasing; while that of Massachusetts was increased $785,000. The debt of Pennsylvania, on the other hand, was reduced last year to the extent of $1,504,072 and the State has set herself the task of paying off an additional million this year. Then, again, there has been no reduction of taxes in either of those great States, whilst the old Keystone has relinquished taxation to the amount of fully a million. As the State debt decreases the taxation must also decrease; and our future, financially, is consequently growing brighter and brighter. The bonded indebtedness of the three States is thus stated:

Pennsylvania, December 1, 1873	$25 798 822
New York	42,260,000
Massachusetts	25,415,984

What the contrast would present if comparison were made with Ohio, and other States, we cannot now say; but we are certain that Pennsylvania presents as clean a financial record as that of any other State; and that her citizens, instead of complaining that they are overburdened with taxation, should rejoice that they live in a State which is governed more cheaply (shall we not say better?) than any State in the Union in proportion to the amount of her population.

SOUP KITCHENS.

Experience is a dear school, yet most people will learn in no other. When young BENNETT, of the New York *Herald*, ostentatiously put his hand in his pockets, and pulled out $30,000, which he gave to establish soup kitchens to relieve the terrible sufferings of the poor in that city, and experienced philanthropists stepped forward and protested that it would promote pauperism instead of relieving it, they were laughed at, and ridiculed, and hooted out of the way. The munificent gift of the young journalist was held up as something grand; the kitchens were established; the pictorial papers served up the kitchens as the kitchens served up the soup, and the donor was glorified as a man above all his fellows in princely philanthropy.

Well, like all other givers of his class, he has had his reward. The $30,000 gift is spent, and the result of the benevolence remains to be told. What good has it done, beyond glorifying the giver? Has pauperism been reduced? Has the suffering of the poor been relieved? Has any appreciable benefit resulted from it? The answers are easy. Many worthy poor were, perhaps, relieved; but it was the idle, the dissolute, the vicious and the unthrifty generally who came in for its benefits. And not only those classes *in* the city; but their congeners from abroad were tempted by the odors of the public flesh pots and rushed in flocks into New York until it was completely overrun with them. Bummers and loafers, thieves and imposters of every grade, found it easy to ply their calling so long as free food was provided for them; and to them the soup houses were an unexpected advantage. The experiment has, consequently, as Mr. BRACE and other experienced philanthropists said it would, increased pauperism and stimulated unthriftiness, instead of helping the deserving poor.

The inconsiderate people, who would not listen to this warning when it was given, but who disowned it in vociferous shoutings for BENNETT, are satisfied now, it was correct. They have learned from experience that indiscriminate charity is sure to work mischief. Benevolence, like every thing else, must flow in certain channels, to be sure of doing good, and must be systematic and cautious to be effective. The people in this world who most deserve help are those who are the most willing and the most anxious to help themselves. To these, a day's work is more welcome than charity, no matter in what shape offered, and BENNETT's $30,000 gift, if it had been confided to hands which know who need help most and deserve it best, would have gladdened many weary hearts to whom a soup kitchen is more repulsive than the poor house. To such worthy people, when work was offered, it was gladly accepted; but when work at $1 50 a day was tendered to a gang of thirty who were swilling the public soup, only two of the lot accepted it. The rest preferred a condition in which food could be had without work.

The lesson taught is that there is a right way and a wrong way to do every thing. The right way to give so as to do the most available good, has not yet, perhaps, been clearly proven; but enough is known to prove that public soup kitchens, except in times of general calamity, increase the very evil they were intended to cure.

NOT long ago we called attention, in these columns, to the adverse influence which the reckless and corrupt management of some of our local railroad enterprises was likely to exert upon the investment of foreign capital in this country. We now learn from the *Iron Age* that an association, styled the "Council of Foreign Bondholders," has lately been formed in London, under the auspices of the British Board of Trade, which proposes "the vindication and protection of the rights and interests of the holders of foreign bonds, and the maintenance of the public credit of foreign governments, by the propagation of sound doctrines with respect to the punctual fulfillment of their financial engagements, especially towards foreign creditors." The Council reviews the financial condition of a number of defaulting countries, including the States of Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, the three first named of which States are reprehended with particular severity as Commonwealths "where the obligations of justice, morality and laws are set at defiance by the community." The Council have resolved to discourage and oppose, in every way, investments in those States, and they add that they have not been unmindful of invoking the attention of their Continental allies to the common danger." This action will unquestionably have quite a serious effect upon the prospects of those who have mineral properties upon the English market, and it will probably retard the development of a number of really meritorious enterprises, by depriving them of the requisite aid. Let the States interested in this matter at once see to it that the proper remedy is applied—which is, the adoption of a system of the most rigid economy and retrenchment and taxation levied in until the last dollar of their foreign indebtedness is wiped out—for in this way only can their credit be restored.

"MR. FERNANDO WOOD asserts, successfully upon the whole, the leadership of the Democratic party in the House."—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

It is said that a good many new members are considerably influenced by the gray hairs and courtly manners of Mr. Wood, and that they treat his assumptions of austere morality with great respect. Most probably they are not aware of the school in which this "leader of the Democratic party in the House" learned his virtue. Reference was recently made in the House to his career by Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, pending the debate upon four or five bills to impeach the Howard Court of Inquiry. The allusion was in these words: "And General HOWARD never pleaded the statute of limitation for anything in his life." Some fifteen years ago there was presented in one of the courts of New York an indictment in the case of MARVINE *vs.* WOOD. The former had been a partner of FERNANDO WOOD, and the indictment charged him with having made use of the intimate relations of partnership to forge MARVINE'S name, by which, it was alleged, he made great profits. It is this same FERNANDO WOOD, who is now a prominent subserviency to the Republican side of the House, who pleaded to the indictment that the statute of limitation had run upon the charge, and that the indictment was barred. So the case went off. And "Mr. FERNANDO WOOD asserts, successfully upon the whole, the leadership of the Democratic party in the House."

THE New York *Herald* has been looking into the manner in which the money contributed to the various charitable institutions of that city is expended. It publishes a full exhibit of such institutions, with detailed statements of their annual expenditures for relief, and the annual cost of such expenditures in the shape of salaries, from which it appears that of $2,507,011, received last year, $745,105 were disbursed in wages to officers, &c. Some of the institutions are very economically administered, and the money distributed by the managers in such manner that all or nearly all reaches the classes for which it is intended, but a large number squander more than one-half of the yearly disbursements upon agents and employees. One of these—the "American Seamen's Friend Society"—last year expended the sum of fifty six dollars and fifty-three cents for rent, and forty-two thousand three hundred and five dollars for salaries. It is not difficult to see that these gentlemen who live on salaries aggregating that amount, could not do much for "poor Jack" with the shameful balance they disbursed in one year. The money donated by the city to these institutions during the past three years, amounted to $300,650—which was entirely eaten up in half a year's salary of their officers. It is certainly a disgrace to that city that every dollar given by the authorities each year, and a large part of that contributed by private individuals in addition, should be diverted from the channels in which it was intended by the donors to flow, in so extravagant and prodigal a manner.

"The Dead"

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In your issue of the 17th inst., Professor P. U. Holland makes the absurd statement that it would take the "entire surface of the States of New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and two States the size of Massachusetts, to furnish burial surface for the dead of the world."

It seems to me as though the Professor could not have given the idea a second thought; but he has, and in so doing, I think, he has discovered its folly and extreme absurdity.

I will make the statement that the State of New York will furnish burial surface for twice its number of inhabitants that have ever lived and died in our world! *Proof:* The flood occurred A. M. 1260. Then the earth could have been but thinly populated. I put down the aggregate population at 1,000,000. From that epoch to the present there have been forty-two centuries. The whole population dies three times in each century, therefore one hundred and twenty-six generations have expired from that period to the present. If we say the average population to have been 500,000,000 to each generation, and this multiplied by 126, the number of human beings, gives an aggregate of 63,000,000,000. This number, added to the 1,000,000,000, the aggregate population of the world, at the present time, gives an aggregate population for the past and present, of 64,000,000,000. Now we have 640 square acres in a square mile, which, when reduced to square feet, gives twenty-seven millions eight hundred and ninety-eight thousand and four hundred square feet. The State of New York contains 46,000 square miles, multiplying this by the number of square feet in a square mile, gives the surface of 1,282,406,400,000. This number, divided by ten, the average number of square feet given to each body, gives a quotient of 128,240,640,000. Now if we divide this number, 64,000,000,000, the number of the whole population of the world, we have two as the quotient. Therefore it is demonstrated that the State of New York will furnish burial surface for twice the entire population of this globe. How absurd, then, the notion of the Professor.

SAMUEL MASON.

CANTON, O., March 17, 1874.

THE peach crop in Delaware is now believed to have been somewhat injured by the alternations of heat and cold during the latter part of February, and although somewhat early in the season, the growers speak with an air of positive confidence about the result, and have made thorough examinations of their orchards. The Moore's variety is said to be almost entirely killed, and Crawford's Early, Crawford's late and Old Mason—all favorite varieties—are said to have sustained great damage. There is this much in the whole matter which may be accepted as reliable, namely, the peach buds have been killed, but unless there should come after this some more fatal blights, the crop will be an average one.

A MAN's leg which had been neatly amputated by a locomotive at Newark, N. J., on last Monday was carried by the engine to Bristol, Pa. (about one hundred miles), and when the engineer discovered the limb on the cowcatcher he kindly inquired by telegraph all along the line whether anybody had missed a leg. Newark answered "yes," and the leg was promptly returned. It was too late, however, to be of any service, for the former owner was dead. But, then, it was an exhibition of touching tenderness on the part of the engineer who took it off.

ACCORDING to the London *Bankers' Magazine* the circulation of the United Kingdom in August last was: of Bank of England, £20,120,-206; private banks, £2,552,128; of joint stock banks, £2,332 127; Scotland, £5,562,854; Ireland, £6,519,335, making a total of £43,086,735, or, in round numbers, $215,000,000 of paper circulation, which is about one-third the amount of our currency.

"IF WE KNEW."

If we knew the woe and heart-ache,
Waiting for us in the road,
If our eyes could taste the worm-wood,
If our backs could feel the load;
Would we waste to day in wishing
For a time that never can be?
Would we toil in such impatience
For our ships to come from sea?

If we knew the baby-fingers
Pressed against the window-pane,
Would be cold and still to-morrow
Never trouble us again;
Would the bright eyes of our darling
Catch the first look upon our brow?
Would the print of rosy fingers
Vex us then as they do now?

Ah, those little ice cold fingers,
How they point our memories back,
To the hasty words and actions
Strewn along our backward track!
How those little hands remind us
As in snowy grace they lie,
Not to scatter thorns, but roses,
For our reaping by-and-bye!

Strange we never prize the music
Till the sweet-voiced bird has flown;
Strange that we should slight the violets
Till the lovely flowers are gone;
Strange that summer days are dreary
Never seem one day too fair;
As when winter days are sunny
Shake the snowy pinions
Quite down in the air!

Lips from which the seal of silence
None but God can roll away,
Never lispeomed in such beauty
As antoms the mouth to-day;
And sweet words that freight our memory
With their beautiful perfume,
Come to us in sweet accents
Through the portals of the tomb.

Let us gather up the sunbeams
Lying all along our path;
Let us keep the wheat and roses,
Casting out the thorns and chaff;
Let us find our sweetest comfort
In the blessings of to-day;
With a patient hand removing
All the briers from our way.

SPRING.

The green grass displays squirrel
With joy at the dawn of day,
(For the most inquisitive ever
Of the flowers of the field are they,)
Lisp in their lazy
Neighbors that, flat on the ground,
Dandelion and daisy,
Lay still in a slumber sound;
But soon, as a ripple of shadow
Runs over the whispering wheat,
The rumor ran over the meadow
With the numerous fairies feet:
It was told by the water-cresses
To the brook, that the, in and out
Of his garrulous green recesses,
For gossip was rushing about;
And the brooklet, full of the matter,
Spread it about with pride:
But he stopped to gossip and chatter,
And turned no others aside.
That the news got there before him
Ere his journey down was done;
And young Love leaved in the vale laughed o'er him.
"We know it!" The snow is gone!"

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Virginia still keeps up the whipping-post—for colored men.

Texas is placing more corn in land, and more land in corn, than usual.

A few days more and navigation will be fully open on all our great water courses.

A large number of Michiganders are making geese of themselves through perversion to Mormonism.

Chicago has over $20,000,000 invested in the business of taking the traveler in and doing for him.

O, bother cremation! We have to earn our living—and we don't want to be compelled to turn our dead.

It helps to show what a great country this is, that we are beginning to raise our own volcanoes, even in the old States.

How strange that no one in Massachusetts seems to have though of Samuel Bowles as the successor of Mr. Sumner!

Marietta, Georgia, is boasting that it has discovered a mica bed. The next thing we know they will be discovering a Pat abed.

And now a New York lady is going to emulate Mrs. Dahlgren, and publish a book about Gotham etiquette. What about shoddy?

A Southern paper pertinently heads its marriage column "bari-kari," and asks the prayers of the people for the victims. Some parties, against the Howard Court of Inquiry. The allusion was in these words: "And General Howard never pleaded the statute of limitation for anything in his life." Some fifteen years ago there was presented in one of the courts of New York an indictment in the case of MARVINE *vs.* WOOD. The former had been a partner of FERNANDO WOOD, and the indictment charged him with having made use of the intimate relations of partnership to forge MARVINE'S name, by which, it was alleged, he made great profits. It is this same FERNANDO WOOD, who is now a prominent subserviency to the Republican side of the House, who pleaded to the indictment that the statute of limitation had run upon the charge, and that the indictment was barred. So the case went off. And "Mr. FERNANDO WOOD asserts, successfully upon the whole, the leadership of the Democratic party in the House."

THE New York *Herald* has been looking into the manner in which the money contributed to the various charitable institutions of that city is expended. It publishes a full exhibit of such institutions, with detailed statements of their annual expenditures for relief, and the annual cost of such expenditures in the shape of salaries, from which it appears that of $2,507,011, received last year, $745,105 were disbursed in wages to officers, &c. Some of the institutions are very economically administered, and the money distributed by the managers in such manner that all or nearly all reaches the classes for which it is intended, but a large number squander more than one-half of the yearly disbursements upon agents and employees. One of these—the "American Seamen's Friend Society"—last year expended the sum of fifty six dollars and fifty-three cents for rent, and forty-two thousand three hundred and five dollars for salaries. It is not difficult to see that these gentlemen who live on salaries aggregating that amount, could not do much for "poor Jack" with the shameful balance they disbursed in one year. The money donated by the city to these institutions during the past three years, amounted to $300,650—which was entirely eaten up in half a year's salary of their officers. It is certainly a disgrace to that city that every dollar given by the authorities each year, and a large part of that contributed by private individuals in addition, should be diverted from the channels in which it was intended by the donors to flow, in so extravagant and prodigal a manner.

"The Dead"

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In your issue of the 17th inst., Professor P. U. Holland makes the absurd statement that it would take the "entire surface of the States of New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and two States the size of Massachusetts, to furnish burial surface for the dead of the world."

It seems to me as though the Professor could not have given the idea a second thought; but he has, and in so doing, I think, he has discovered its folly and extreme absurdity.

I will make the statement that the State of New York will furnish burial surface for twice its number of inhabitants that have ever lived and died in our world! *Proof:* The flood occurred A. M. 1260. Then the earth could have been but thinly populated. I put down the aggregate population at 1,000,000. From that epoch to the present there have been forty-two centuries. The whole population dies three times in each century, therefore one hundred and twenty-six generations have expired from that period to the present. If we say the average population to have been 500,000,000 to each generation, and this multiplied by 126, the number of human beings, gives an aggregate of 63,000,000,000. This number, added to the 1,000,000,000, the aggregate population of the world, at the present time, gives an aggregate population for the past and present, of 64,000,000,000. Now we have 640 square acres in a square mile, which, when reduced to square feet, gives twenty-seven millions eight hundred and ninety-eight thousand and four hundred square feet. The State of New York contains 46,000 square miles, multiplying this by the number of square feet in a square mile, gives the surface of 1,282,406,400,000. This number, divided by ten, the average number of square feet given to each body, gives a quotient of 128,240,640,000. Now if we divide this number, 64,000,000,000, the number of the whole population of the world, we have two as the quotient. Therefore it is demonstrated that the State of New York will furnish burial surface for twice the entire population of this globe. How absurd, then, the notion of the Professor.

SAMUEL MASON.

CANTON, O., March 17, 1874.

THE peach crop in Delaware is now believed to have been somewhat injured by the alternations of heat and cold during the latter part of February, and although somewhat early in the season, the growers speak with an air of positive confidence about the result, and have made thorough examinations of their orchards. The Moore's variety is said to be almost entirely killed, and Crawford's Early, Crawford's late and Old Mason—all favorite varieties—are said to have sustained great damage. There is this much in the whole matter which may be accepted as reliable, namely, the peach buds have been killed, but unless there should come after this some more fatal blights, the crop will be an average one.

A MAN's leg which had been neatly amputated by a locomotive at Newark, N. J., on last Monday was carried by the engine to Bristol, Pa. (about one hundred miles), and when the engineer discovered the limb on the cowcatcher he kindly inquired by telegraph all along the line whether anybody had missed a leg. Newark answered "yes," and the leg was promptly returned. It was too late, however, to be of any service, for the former owner was dead. But, then, it was an exhibition of touching tenderness on the part of the engineer who took it off.

ACCORDING to the London *Bankers' Magazine* the circulation of the United Kingdom in August last was: of Bank of England, £20,120,-206; private banks, £2,552,128; of joint stock banks, £2,332 127; Scotland, £5,562,854; Ireland, £6,519,335, making a total of £43,086,735, or, in round numbers, $215,000,000 of paper circulation, which is about one-third the amount of our currency.

STATE NEWS.

Measles and cheap oil worry Oil City.

The strike in the Glen Iron Works, Allentown, is ended.

Sharon has sixty gin mills, "one to every day," and needs a crusade.

The first raft that came down the river Susquehanna was in the spring of 1795.

The Coatesville market horse was sold at sheriff's sale one day last week for $1.

Pennsylvania produced more wheat in 1850 than any other State in the Union.

The opening of the Parker and Karns City Railroad will take place on the 8th of April.

William Marks, a stone mason, fell dead in Allentown on the 20th instant, of heart disease.

Lehigh county has 17,971 taxables, of which number 5,099 live and own property in Allentown.

The Lehigh County Recorder recorded a deed Tuesday that was given in 1812. The owner just thought of it.

Dr. H. M. Wick, of New Bethlehem, Clarion county, died on the 15th inst., in the sixtieth year of his age.

Thomas Coho, an inmate of the Schuylkill county alms house, cut his throat on the 17th inst., because he was tired of life.

The Lewisburg, Center and Spruce Creek Railroad was opened on Monday, nineteen miles from Lewisburg, on Monday, 23d inst.

A cow belonging to a Munster township, Cambria county, farmer recently gave birth in one night to three perfectly developed and living calves.

Mr. James Jack, of Philadelphia, committed suicide by poisoning, at Ephrata, Lancaster county, on Thursday. He was sixty years of age and leaves a family.

Senator Sumner would have died before his time if he had got hold of the *Cove Echo*, which punctuated his last words: "Take care of my Civil Rights, Bill."

An application has been made to the Board of Pardons for Executive clemency in the case of Isaac Fire, of Easton, who obtained about $50,000 by various forgeries.

John Simmons, of Scranton, took an overdose of laudanum on the 19th inst., which caused his death in a few hours. He was in the habit of taking morphine.

William A. Penn, aged three years, is New Castle's pet prodigy. He learned to read when two years old, and is now in Osgood's second reader, and will soon be ready for the third.

Hon. Jacob Wilhelm died at his residence in Graham township, Clearfield county, on the 16th inst. He had occupied the position of County Commissioner and Associate Judge.

The Clarion people are "talking railroad" again, but are slow about putting up the necessary money. It is said that a subscription of $40,000 on their part would secure the building of a road.

The Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society will meet in Harrisburg on Wednesday next to determine whether the next annual exhibition shall be held in Philadelphia or Norristown.

The Supreme Court has set Thursday, 28th May, for hearing the arguments of counsel in favor of a new trial in the case of Udderzook, recently convicted of murder in the Chester county Criminal Court.

John F. Baker is in the New Bloomfield jail, charged with committing a rape on the person of a little girl named Robinson, eleven years old, in Carroll township, Perry county, on the 16th inst. The girl is not likely to recover.

The strike among the heaters, roughers and pilers at the Glen Mill, Allentown, still continues, and there is but little prospect that the difficulty will be settled for the present. Six furnaces are in full operation, the strike having only stopped two.

The wood on the lands in Beaver township, Crawford county, stretching over an area of some 2,000 acres, has been purchased by Erie parties, to be converted into charcoal for use at the rolling mill of Rawle, Noble & Co., at Erie. The cutting will be commenced at once.

It is said that Mr. Charles Parrish offers to give Luzerne county a building lot in South Wilkesbarre for a new court house, and to donate one hundred thousand dollars toward the improvement, for the purpose of having the present structure removed from the public square.

The Johnstown *Tribune* says: A narrow gauge railroad from Ebensburg to a point on the Blackleg fork, six or seven miles west of that town, is talked of. Immense beds of coal and ore are to be found in that section, and it is that these may be got to market that the enterprise is seriously considered.

The Franklin *Spectator* says: "The Sunday school of the Presbyterian church in this city is preparing to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. The celebration